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POLL RESULTS

Do you support letting the CNMI government borrow money to pay off its \$231.6 million debt with the Retirement Fund?

Yes-49

No-91

No opinion-7

Sunday, July 19, 2009

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of July 17, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipeoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Walter Cronkite, 92

The death of Walter Cronkite elicited tributes from colleagues, presidents past and present, world-famous astronauts and those who hoped in vain to fill his empty anchor chair.

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Govt asks high court to reverse OGA suit ruling. **PAGE 2**
Fund chair to seek retirees' recommendation for replacement. **PAGE 3**

CHC sans full-time kidney doctor since April

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI has a high rate of kidney-related diseases and diabetes, but the Commonwealth Health Center has no full-time nephrologist or a kidney doctor since April 2009.

During Friday's hearing held by the House Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare, Rep. David Apatang inquired from public health officials whether CHC has a doctor in the dialysis center.

Medical director Dr. Richard Brostrom

See CHC on Page 4



Brostrom

Lujan wants probation for Villagomez

By **NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.**
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

David J. Lujan, the defense counsel in the Rydlyme case, has requested the U.S. District Court-CNMI last Friday to sentence former Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez to a term of probation with reasonable conditions.

Lujan submitted to the court Villagomez's 16-page response and objections to the June 23 pre-sentence investigative report, saying the summa-

See LUJAN on Page 4



Villagomez

Aldan wins Las Vegas Night grand prize



By **NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.**
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REPORTER

Saipan hosted its annual Las Vegas Night last Saturday at Fiesta Resort and Spa.

And the evening's biggest winner wasn't even present to claim his winnings, as Gil-

See ALDAN on Page 4

The roulette table drew a big number of bettors during the Rotary Club of Saipan's Las Vegas Night held last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort and Spa.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Thin crowd turns up at Guerrero-Borja rally

But Guerrero says he is happy, confident he will win

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A thin crowd showed up at the first rally of independent gubernatorial candidate Ramon S. Guerrero and his running mate, Dr. David Borja, at the Civic Center on Saturday, but Guerrero is still happy.

"I'm not concerned about the crowd.

I'm concerned of how we deliver our message to the people," Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* shortly after he delivered his speech.

Guerrero said it is not the number that he cares, but the people who are suffering from the fuel surcharge, Commonwealth Health Center issues, and the "fi-

See THIN on Page 4



Guerrero



Borja



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Local

Govt asks high court to reverse OGA suit ruling

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The government requested the Supreme Court last Friday to reverse its ruling in the Open Government Act suit of Rep. Tina Sablan.

Sablan asked the high court on July 10 to affirm the judgment of the trial court in ordering the release of records, responding to the opening brief on July 2 wherein the government stated that there is no case the government knows of, and certainly no case the trial court

or Rep. Sablan cited.

The Supreme Court scheduled a hearing this Wednesday at 10am.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Eloy S. Inos, representing the government through Assistant Attorney General Braddock J. Huesman, claimed two exemptions under the act, the attorney-client privilege and the litigation exception, the only issue that is on appeal.

The government said that under the plain language of the litigation exemption, public records are exempt from

disclosure if they are relevant to a controversy to which the government is a party and would not be available to an adverse party under pretrial discovery rules.

It also said that the trial court shifted the burden of proof, improperly, to the governor and lieutenant governor, ignored the only established case law it was presented with, and relied on case law that was not analogous to buttress its decision.

The government said the documents that Sablan is seeking are not only exempt but that disclosure would harm the government's litigation efforts.

It said that the only court that has ever ordered these types of documents released during active litigation is the Commonwealth Superior Court through the trial court's order.

"In reaching its erroneous decision, the trial court impermis-

sibly shifted the burden of the 'clearly unnecessary' test to the governor and lieutenant governor," it said.

In asking the court to affirm the trial court ruling, Sablan said that the issues in the government's appeal are all challenges to the trial court's conclusions of law and as such they are reviewed entirely.

Sablan argued that the trial court did not improperly shift the burden of proof onto the appellants to establish that nondisclosure was clearly unnecessary to protect a vital government function.

She also said that the trial court did not erroneously ignore analogous case law cited by the government, saying the government cited case law that is simply analogous.

Sablan also argued that the trial court correctly and properly determined that the nondisclosure of the requested records was clearly unnecessary to protect any vital government function.

She said that case law and the plain language of the act clearly places on the government's burden of proving that the dis-

closure of the requested records would harm any government function.

"Appellants have completely failed to meet that burden. Merely arguing and rearguing that the government would suffer significant damage or any disadvantage in the 903 litigation if the requested records are disclosed does not make it so," Sablan said.

Sablan said it is worthwhile at this juncture to consider the vital government function served by the court system in upholding the rule of law and protecting a fundamental tenet of any democratic society.

"That is the right of the people to remain informed so that they may retain control over the government that serves them," she said.

She said that the government's ability to refuse to disclose public records must be carefully weighed against the public's right to know.

This she said is consistent with the express mandates of the Open Government Act and public policy favoring the spirit of transparency.

NMC faculty lauds Regents 'goals' for prexy Fernandez

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The faculty of the Northern Marianas College lauded the decision of the Board of Regents to set specific goals and objectives for their president to perform every year.

Larry Lee, acting business department chairperson and faculty senate president, expressed elation on Friday after finding out that all concerns and inputs of the faculty members were considered in the board's action.

"I think [the set goals and objectives for NMC president Carmen Fernandez] are great because they cover a lot of areas especially the personnel issues...and we're thanking the board for coming up with the decision," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

It was last week when the Regents adopted four specific focus areas of the president for next school year. These include accreditation, communication, human resources, Rota and Tinian instructional sites.

Lee believes that with the new mandated tasks for the president, the college can address the numerous concerns on policies and personnel procedures that resulted in grievances and complaints against the management.

There were eight various

grievances, all pertaining to personnel and contract issues, that were filed last semester to the college departments. A complaint could reach the president's desk upon completion of the four other lower levels in the process.

Saipan Tribune learned that the faculty, during the term of senate president Frank Sobolewski, submitted their inputs to the board on how a president can be effectively assessed and

evaluated every year. Issues about the proper evaluation of the NMC president surfaced when the board approved and extended Fernandez's contract from two years to four years despite some concerns raised against

her management. Lee said the faculty is now "moving forward" to work with Fernandez's management with the new set goals and objectives the president must accomplish.

The senate faculty leader also disclosed that some eight to 10 instructional faculty are still needed for the Fall semester which begins in August.

Saipan Tribune learned that there are a total of 30 instructional faculty members at present and four department chairpersons.

But he said some of these va-

See NMC on Next Page



Sablan

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Fund chair to seek retirees' recommendation for replacement

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gubernatorial candidate Juan "Pan" T. Guerrero is expected to step down from his post as NMI Retirement Fund chair in the next 30 days.

This was his admission to *Saipan Tribune* adding that he intends to turn in a letter of resignation to the governor and the trustees soon.

However, in the same letter,

Guerrero said a recommendation for his replacement will be included.

"Upon my exit from the board, I would turn in names to the governor and the trustees for the possible replacement in my position. And this recommendation will come from the retirees of the Commonwealth," Guerrero said, alluding to the newly formed Commonwealth Retirement Association.

"I would specifically ask the

association names who they believe would serve as a good trustee and would stand and do their job without fear of retaliation," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Guerrero is scheduled to fly to Guam and U.S. starting this weekend to conduct series of election campaigns.

However, he assured the public that he will perform to the best of his ability until his last day in office.

In an interview yesterday with Agnes McPhetres, one of the association's interim board directors, she said the group will discuss the "recommendation" on its next meeting.

She disclosed that it is the goal of the association to hold a debate among gubernatorial candidates prior to election day.

"We're doing now the coordination with all gubernatorial candidates for them to present their views on what they would do for the Retirement Fund," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

McPhetres said the main objective of the event is for the public to know where these candidates stand on the retirement issues.

"So people could vote intelligently this general election," she added.

All officials of the association are currently serving in interim capacity until the group's general election in September.

It was in June when the CRA filed with the Registrar Corporations a verified petition to grant them and their members a charter of incorporation as a nonprofit group.

Listed as its officers are William R. Barrineau, Juan M. Sablan, Sapuro J. Rayphand, and

Oscar Camacho. Barrineau will serve as the association's chairman.

An eight-member board of directors was also established to guide its officers in its mandated function to look after the retirees' welfare.

Based on documents, CRA is a membership organization that brings together persons interested in the public retirement system and other retirement opportunities in the CNMI.

Its members, the association said, have gathered together to advance the common interests of the members of the defined Benefit Retirement Plan.

Saipan Tribune learned that its membership is open to those who are included in the DB plan of the Retirement Fund and will pay a membership fee that has yet to be established by the board.

The association, *Saipan Tribune* learned, will appoint or recommend one or more of its members to serve as a member of the CNMI Retirement Fund board of trustees.

Listed as the association's board of directors are Barrineau, Sablan, Rayphand, Camacho, Donna J. Cruz, Juan I. Tenorio, Joseph Palacios, and Agnes McPhetres.

Tebuteb initiates move to clear up re-zoning policies

Saipan Legislative Delegation chair Rep. Ramon Tebuteb has initiated a meeting with Zoning Board officials to discuss overlapping re-zoning policies.

In an interview, Tebuteb said he called a meeting recently with Zoning Board because there seems to be overlapping of re-zoning policy.

Tebuteb said what the Legislature did is authorize the Zoning Board, if there is a zoning issue, to go through the process—public hearing—so that they will fully be aware of the intent to re-zone.

"So before re-zoning we go through the process of public hearing and such. And we authorized them to go ahead and change that," said Tebuteb who also chairs the House Committee on Natural Resources.

The representative said the Zoning Board's new counsel raised an issue about come conflicts or overlapping policy because that is a legislative function.

"On the Zoning Board's part it's just that more so than carry-over. What the legislative function tells the executive function. In this case, the Zoning Board is an executive function. So it

is not to legislate but to execute legislative function," he said.

Tebuteb said he called the meeting so that they can make sure that everybody understands those concerns and then take it to the next step on what they should consider in order to address that concern.

"There seems to be some fine

line that we need to be more on clear on before we even take back that authorization," he said.

The Saipan Zoning Law took effect in December 2008.

The Zoning Office has since then re-

portedly processed over 1,200 applications and requests for information and issued over 200 permits and other authorizations.

Rep. Stanley T. Torres last month introduced a bill that seeks a six-month suspension of the zoning law. He said local businesses and zoning clients are presently encountering issues relating to the implementation of the new regulations. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



Tebuteb

NMC

From Page 2

cancies now in the process of being filled this summer.

"A lot of interviews are being conducted and the management is trying to get people hired for the Fall semester," he added.

Early this month, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges reaffirmed NMC's four-year accreditation after it fulfilled all the team's recommendations.

Lee is optimistic that this would result to more students enrolling at the campus.

"What scared some people away was because they're not sure of the accreditation of the college...and now that we're reaffirmed, I think students will start coming back," he said.

For the faculty, he said, more work needs to be done in the preparation of the midterm report due in October.

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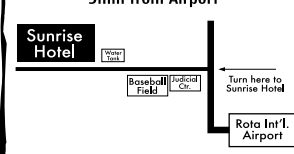
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'How much longer is CUC emergency going to last?'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A ranking senator asked officials of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. this question recently, expressing concern as to how soon the agency would regain its autonomous status.

Sen. Paul Manglona, chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Utilities,

Transportation and Communications, said he is just wondering as to when the Legislature can expect to keep receiving the monthly declaration of the state of disaster emergency for CUC.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Manglona said he called a committee meeting yesterday with CUC executive director Antonio Muña to know how long lawmakers will be receiving the

monthly state of disaster declaration.

"We're just concerned. We duplicate this every month," said the senator, referring to the state of disaster emergency declaration that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial first issued in August 2008.

The Rota senator said they also wanted to know when the administration would finally implement Public Law 16-17, the law that created the

CUC board of directors.

Manglona said they learned during the meeting that CUC will have an excess power capacity by September 2009. CUC determined that it should be able to produce from its own power units by Sept. 12, 2009, at least 55 megawatts that would give the utility agency a reserve 15 megawatts, the minimum needed to reliably manage the power system.

CUC gave Aggreko notice last June 12 that its contract will not be extended. CUC contracted Aggreko to commission approximately 15 MW of temporary, diesel-fired power generators.

Manglona said Muña also explained the need to hire nonresident engineers, electricians, and other skilled workers in order for CUC maintain its power engines.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Important info about NMC Fall semester

Important information about the Northern Marianas College's Fall 2009 Semester has been posted to the college's website at www.nmnet.edu. The Fall 2009 Class Schedule, placement test dates, registration dates, and other information can be accessed now. Log on to NMC's website or call Manny Castro at 234-5498 ext. 1528 for more details. **(NMC)**

WESPAC schedules meetings

Fishermen and other members of the public are invited to participate in the following meetings of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, which manages offshore fisheries in Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and other U.S. Pacific insular areas.

■ The Scientific and Statistical Committee will convene 8:30am to 5pm, July 20 to 22, 2009.

■ The Council Standing Committee will meet from 1pm to 5pm, July 22.

■ The full Council will meet at 6:30pm to 9:30pm, July 22; 8:30am to 6pm, July 23; 8:30am to 5:30pm, July 24; and 8:30am to 5pm, July 25.

All meetings will be held at the King Kamehameha Kona Beach Hotel, 75-5660 Palani Road, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. Public comment periods are available during the meetings. Written testimonies are

also accepted.

Major agenda items include fishing regulations in the new Pacific marine national monuments, Hancock Seamount groundfish fishery moratorium, main Hawaiian Islands bottomfish total allowable catch, catch shares, annual catch limits for species with known maximum sustainable yields, Hawaii offshore non-longline pelagic fisheries, longline tuna quota management and tuna quota monitoring

For more information or agendas, visit www.wpcouncil.org or contact Council staff at info.wpcouncil@noaa.gov or phone (808) 522-8220; in Guam, John Calvo, (671) 649-3150 or 688-6400; in the CNMI, Jack Ogumoro, (670) 322-9830 or 287-9482. **(PR)**

ALDAN

From Page 1

bert Aldan's lucky ticket number was drawn, allowing him to chose either of two grand prizes—\$10,000 in cash or a spanking new 2009 Toyota Corolla.

A full house crowd—no pun intended—waited four to five hours for the grand prize drawing and majority of them came home disappointed when Aldan's ticket No. 6610 was announced.

Naomi Boyer won the first prize of \$3,000 while Rose Mesina took the second prize of \$2,000, while Rick Alejandro pocketed the third prize of \$1,000.

Former Superior Court judge and Rotary Club official Tim Bellas won the fourth place prize of \$500, while a certain Pat, who was also not present, bagged \$500.

After the main draw, Rotary gave out special raffle prizes—a trip to Japan won by Nolia R. Muellersman and a trip to the Philippines won by Jenny Tem.

The prizes will be formally presented to the winners in tomorrow's regular session of the Rotary Club of Saipan at the Hyatt Regency.

Rotary Club secretary Elly Stoilova congratulated the winners and thanked the people for coming out and making the event a success.

"It was a good turnout," she said.

The total amount of money generated from the sales of tickets, Kina, black jack, roulette, craps, and Texas hold'em poker are still being determined.

Stoilova said this would be announced during their regular meeting. She added that proceeds from the event would go to the Rotarians' community projects.

Stoilova said most of it would be used to fund the Kagman community children's park.

"That is our priority project because Kagman has the biggest community on island, but we will still continue with some of our projects like the Parade of Books, basketball league, and others," she said.

Some 7,000 tickets went on sale prior to the raffle draw.

Rotary Club president Kim Forrester said the event went well except for a minute-long power outage.

"That made the event more interesting," he said.

Compared to last year, Forrester said this year's turnout was "a little less but very close."

"We're hoping we can surpass [last year's turnout] but I don't think we can because we had a bigger one last year," he said.

LUJAN

From Page 1

rized facts were extracted from reports of the Office of the Public Auditor, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

The court convicted Villagomez and his co-defendants—former Commerce secretary James A. Santos and his wife Joaquina Santos—guilty of defrauding the U.S. government in making unnecessary purchases of Rydlyme.

The sentencing is scheduled on July 28, 2009.

Lujan said the reports were not obtained from the trial and were incomplete and insufficient.

The defense objected to the use of the summarized facts extracted from reports for the purposes of aggravating or enhancing any sentence that might be imposed.

"Because Mr. Villagomez will appeal his conviction, he asserts his right to remain silent and to not incriminate himself and, thus, makes no comment on the facts," the defense said.

Villagomez objected to the alleged total amount of loss of \$361,125 and the 12 level increases based on the facts that the jury made no determination as to the total amount of loss involved in the case, and the total amount of loss attributable to each defendant in the case.

The defense said that the \$361,125 represents all alleged amounts paid by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to the Santos couple for Rhydlyme transactions in the 1998-2000 and 2007 transactions.

"No proof was presented at trial and no findings were made by the jury that such amounts were paid to Mr. Villagomez," Lujan said.

He said that the only count in the indictment that covers the entire period from 1998-2000 and the 2007 transactions and the total alleged loss of \$361,125 is the charge for conspiracy to defraud the United States.

The four other counts occurred in 2007 and "as such the statute of limitation bars inclusion and consideration of alleged losses from 1998-2000."

The defense said no allegation was ever made that Villagomez acted as manager or supervisor in the instructions on the elements of the offenses.

"No proof exists that he exercised control over other conspirators or was responsible for organizing them for the purpose of carrying out the crime," Lujan said.

The defense asked for a two-level reduction based on acceptance of responsibility as evidenced by his voluntary resignation as lieutenant governor on April 24, 2009.

Villagomez also objected to the presentence investigation report to a "total offense level of 32" which applies to a

guideline range of imprisonment from 121 to 151 months imprisonment.

The defense requested a waiver of the fines because Villagomez is unemployed, and the restitution amount of \$361,125 since there is no documentation to support this amount.

Lujan said that Villagomez provided financial support for his family before he resigned from his post, his current net worth is a negative \$6,300, his family relies on his wife's income and that he is a first-time offender, married and is an important financial provider.

Lujan said that if imprisoned, Villagomez's family would experience financial hardship.

Lujan also noted that Villagomez also provides support to his mother, who has Alzheimer's disease and that his elder brother recently became seriously ill.

"Villagomez has no prior convictions, has no history of violence and presents no danger to the community. A sentence of probation certainly affords adequate deterrence to criminal conduct and protects the public from further crimes of Mr. Villagomez," Lujan said.

Lujan said that probation also affords protection to the public from further crimes by monitoring his activities and imposing reporting requirements.

"In this way, the public can be assured that any further wrongdoings will be swiftly addressed by the court, including the imposition of imprisonment," Lujan said.

CHC

From Page 1

said the last full-time nephrologist at CHC had already left.

"It's over two months now that we don't have a nephrologist," Brostrom said.

The last nephrologist, Dr. Raphael G. Loutoby, reportedly did not renew his contract because of a 20-percent cut in his salary.

Loutoby reportedly did not accept the cut in his annual salary of \$250,000.

Rep. Ralph Torres asked if there is no full-time nephrologist, what is CHC doing to treat dialysis patients.

Marcia Igitol, the Human Resources chief at the Department of Public Health, said they have an agreement

with a Guam-based nephrologist to visit the CNMI on a periodic basis.

Igitol said they have an on-call nephrologist from Guam.

She said CHC has been actively recruiting to fill-up the vacant position, but still could not hire one.

Igitol said they have three applicants and they anticipated to get one on board last May, but "nothing came out [of it]."

Igitol explained to lawmakers how CHC has been trying but failing to hire doctors from Canada and the U.S. mainland.

Apatang suggested that there are many Filipino doctors who are U.S. certified.

Many doctors mostly Canadian, have been leaving CHC in the past three years, prompting lawmakers to look into the situation.

THIN

From Page 1

asco" at the NMI Retirement Fund.

"I'm not interested in whether I have the numbers or not. But I think my numbers are the silent voters, the silent majority," he said.

Some people estimated the crowd at over 200. Guerrero said he could not give an estimate.

"But I am very happy with what we have," he pointed out.

Guerrero and Borja along with their supporters started their campaign with a roadside waving along Beach Road from 9am to 10am.

The candidates later delivered their speech on a small stage under a tent. As free drinks were offered, a group of Palauan dancers entertained the crowd. A group of Carolinian stick dancers also performed.

Guerrero still believes he will win in the November elections despite having a small crowd compared to previous rallies by the Covenant Party and the independent team of Juan "Pan" Guerrero and Joseph N. Camacho which were also held at the Civic Center.

"I think have all the chance in the

world to become the next governor. The reason I'm saying that because the people are hurting, the poor people are hurting. The fuel surcharge never stops... there's hundreds that have been disconnected," he said.

Guerrero said his running mate, Borja, in his statement noted that when he was a school principal he saw children coming to school hungry because the parents cannot afford to give them money for lunch.

Guerrero said he used to be the director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. but he never raised the surcharge.

With respect to campaign strategy, he said he and Borja had already set up campaign sorties for Tinian and Rota.

The team will start the pocket meetings in the villages on Saipan tomorrow, Tuesday.

"So we're going full blast now," Guerrero said.

He said they are planning to go to Tinian to talk to some people and get recommendations on what they really feel.

On Rota, Guerrero said a committee was already set up.

Guerrero said if they have the available funding, they may also campaign in the States and in Guam.

IF RUNOFF BILL BECOMES LAW

General, absentee ballots will be counted simultaneously

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Robert Guerrero said that the runoff bill that is now awaiting Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's signature will mandate the agency to count all general and absentee ballots at the same time on election day.

In order to do this, the commission must send in advance the absentee materials to enable it to receive all the ballots—general and absentee—before election day.

Approximately 73 percent of total votes cast during the 2007 general election were in support of the runoff initiative, or House Legislative Initiative 15-16.

To establish runoff election procedures as mandated by the law, a guideline was set for governor's approval for November general polls.

This bill also mandates the counting of absentee ballots on election day to allow for more time for the transitional period of the governor-elect and lieutenant governor-elect.

"Should the bill becomes law, absentee and general ballots will be duly counted on election day...that's why we're sending absentee forms as soon as we're done with the ballots," Guerrero said, describing the measure as "most likely" be applied in November.

Guerrero said a timeframe will also be set on when they the agency is allowed to receive these absentee ballots.

To be counted, an absentee ballot shall be postmarked not later than the date of the runoff election and be received by the commission not later than 14 days after the date of the runoff

election.

"Voters can do it [early] and make sure that they mail it on time...to be counted," he said.

He has yet to give an estimate

on how many absentee voters may participate in the general election.

Under the existing law, absentee ballots are counted a few

weeks after the general election as agency waits for the materials.

Lawmakers earlier said that the bill, if it becomes law, will provide the election commission

time to promulgate the regulations in time for the general poll.

There are four sets of candidates who are expected to vie for the governor and lieutenant governor positions: Covenant Party's Benigno R. Fitial and Eloy Inos; Republican Party's Heinz Hofschneider and Arnold

Palacios; Independent Juan T. Guerrero and Joseph Camacho; and Independent Ramon Guerrero and David Borja.

This will be the first time in CNMI history that a runoff election is required if no candidate for governor gets more than half of the votes cast.

Only 1 popular initiative certified for general elections

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Only one popular initiative has so far been included in the November ballots, according to acting Attorney General Gregory Baka.

This after he confirmed that only one was submitted by the deadline for such initiatives, which his office certified on July 9.

The initiative submitted seeks to amend the Open Government Act to subject the Legislature to that law.

He explained that only popular initiative, according to the statute, that needs AG's certification while legislative ini-

tatives need the lawmaker's approval before these can be included in the election ballots.

"The CNMI Constitution requires the AG's certification of initiative petitions submitted by voters, for the sole purpose of certifying that petition contains the full text of the proposed law and that it be signed by at least 20 percent of the persons qualified to vote in the commonwealth," Baka told *Saipan Tribune*.

He added that initiative petitions require approval by two-thirds of the electoral roll, regardless of the turnout.

Baka, meantime, said that there is no certification requirement for legislative initiatives.

"Ratification of such initiatives is also easier, requiring a majority of the votes cast," he said.

According to Robert Guerrero, executive director of the Commonwealth Election Commission, no legislative initiative has so far been approved for the November poll.

The deadline is set for Aug. 10.

"We have still until Aug. 10 for the Legislature to act on something and forwarded it to us...and it's not done yet," he explained.

Saipan Tribune learned that there are some pending legislative initiatives at the Legislature and these may be included in the ballot.

According to Rep. Tina Salan, there have been more than 30 legislative initiatives introduced this year.

But the ones that have been most discussed in recent days include the pension obligation bond initiative with at least three versions, the deficit reduction initiative which was introduced by Sen. Maria Frica Pangelinan and passed at the last session.

Another initiative that is presently being discussed at the Legislature is the initiative to synchronize the CNMI elec-

tions with the federal general election so as to avoid having an election every year.

Recently the House approved to allow the government to borrow \$200 million to pay its \$231.6 million obligation to the Retirement Fund as determined by a court judgment.

The said initiative will add a new section to Article 10 of the CNMI Constitution to authorize the government to issue pension obligation bonds.

If approved, it will take the government 30 years to pay off the debt.



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Yumul: No problem depositing cover money into trust account

But lawmaker says Fitial should notify Legislature

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Ray N. Yumul, the chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, said there is no problem with the administration depositing cover over tax money into the rebates trust account, but that at least the governor should notify the Legislature.

In an interview, Yumul said he has no objection to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's decision to put the cover over tax money under the trust account that was set up purposely for the tax refund or rebates.

"My only concern is that at least the governor notify us in writing that money (cover over tax payment) had come in," he said.

The lawmaker said as his committee tried to piece what transpired in Fiscal Year 2008, the audit conducted by the Deloitte and Touche was the only vehicle that officially notified his office that the government actually received a grand total of \$41 million in cover over money.

"And we know that the fiscal year ended 10 months ago. That's the reason that I had called for an executive session," he said.

At the time, Yumul said, they received information to be on the lookout for cover over funds coming in.

He said they subsequently received a message from the Retirement Fund echoing the same concern to be considered in receiving a portion of the cover over money.

"That's what prompted me to call the executive session. I literally issued an executive session to hear from the then Finance Secretary [Eloy Inos] that there was \$41.6 million," he said.

Yumul said Inos in that session disclosed an amount, but that he (Yumul) could not recall the actual amount mentioned.

He said the issue of not informing the Legislature is the reason why earlier this week he introduced a bill that seeks to require the Finance Secretary to report to the Legislature all monies

received and deposited into the special rebate account on a quarterly basis.

"So if your intent is to deposit money to rebates trust account as fiscal year progresses...to at least notify the presiding officers on quarterly basis how much money is being deposited into that account.

As it presently stands, Yumul noted, the rebate trust account is not subject to review by the Legislature.

Yumul and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios recently disclosed that the government actually received \$41.6 million in cover over tax payments in Fiscal Year 2008, but the administration declared only \$17.2 million.

However, Fitial later told *Saipan Tribune* that no cover over tax money is missing as the funding is fully accounted for under the rebate trust account.

Fitial said the lawmakers might have forgotten about being advised by then Finance Secretary Inos during an executive session as to where the money was deposited or placed.



RE-CYCLING

A man who collects recyclable materials thrown as garbage rides his bicycle along the Saipan Beach Pathway across the Marianas Visitors Authority Building in San Jose.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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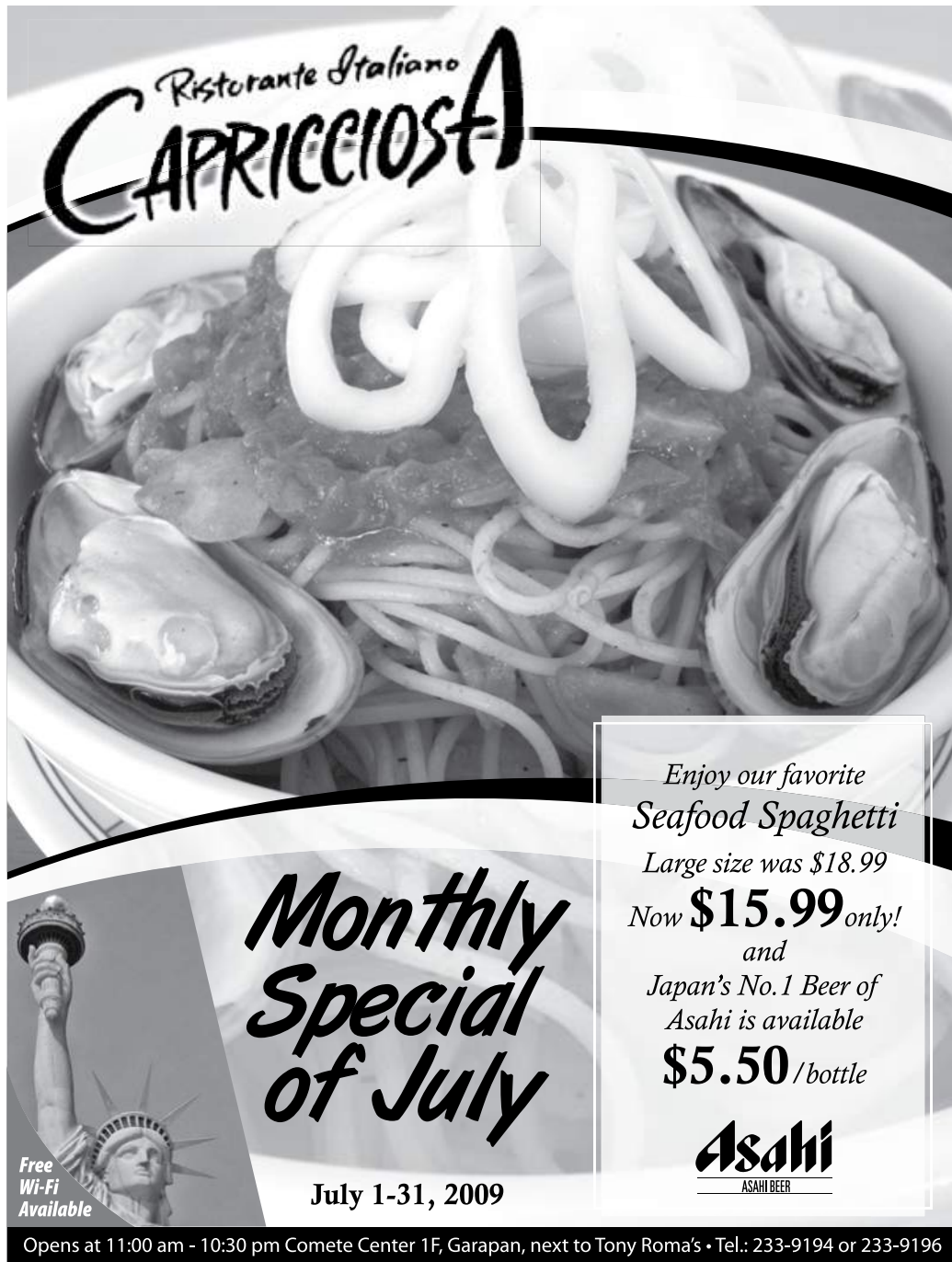


NMI Crime Stoppers is again offering to pay for tips that lead to the

arrest of criminals on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. This month NMI Crime Stoppers is pushing for more tips on the growing problem of copper wire theft.

Any person having any information about all of the previous thefts of copper wire should call the anonymous tip hotline at 234-7272 and give any information they have. You could receive up to \$1,000 if your tip leads to an arrest. The call is completely anonymous and the person answering will most likely be part of the NMI CS answering service based in Canada (no chance of local ID). The tipster can earn money and help Saipan, Tinian, or Rota. This effort to help stop the copper wire thefts is courtesy of NMI Crime Stoppers and Bridge Capital.

Crime Stoppers is a non-profit, volunteer group that helps collect tips about crimes. The Crime Stoppers then pass the tips on to Department of Public Safety. Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$1,000 for tips that lead to an arrest. NMI Crime Stoppers was helpful to DPS in recent crimes and has paid for numerous tips in 2009. The community of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are very important part in helping DPS solve crimes. (PR)



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Public Works now focusing on next phase of Cross Island Road Project

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Works is now focusing on the second phase of the seven-mile long Cross Island Road Project.

DPW Secretary Diego Songsong told *Saipan Tribune* that with the opening of bidding applications last Wednesday for Phase 1 of the Cross Island Road Project they are now concentrating on Phase 2A.

Songsong said Phase 2A will be partly funded by the \$4.5-million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act or the stimulus funds.

Under the road improvement project, the two-lane back road will be reconstructed. The re-

construction will start from San Vicente all the way to Kagman, Capital Hill, and down to the traffic intersection of Chalan Pale Arnold Highway (Middle Road).

Phase 1 will begin from Asin Market to Blue Tank. Phase 2A will start from Blue Tank to 500 feet away from Mobil Kagman intersection.

Phase 2B will begin from 500 feet away from Kagman Mobil to Capital Hill area close to the road going to Talafofo. Phase 3 will be Capital Hill down to Chalan Pale Arnold traffic intersection.

Songsong said Phase 2A includes the construction of traffic lights at the Kagman Mobil intersection.

"Under Phase 2A we will reconstruct the road and some

drainages. There will be some re-alignment of the road just to make sure that the road is properly designed and constructed," Songsong said.

The secretary said Procurement and Supply had just opened the biddings by three

participants for Phase 1 so they are still under evaluation.

He said if all goes well in the bidding process DPW may award the project by this week.

Phase 1 has a budget of \$9.2 million, 100 percent coming from federal highway grant.

Feedback sought on Korean language program

The Korean Cultural Center's Korean Language School is providing a Korean language program at NMC as a program of CDI from June 19 to July 31.

The center wants to get some comments and advice from the public for the next session. The new session will be a basic Korean language program.

Participants are requested to

not hesitate and send their opinions and answers to the following questions: (1) What time is the best time for you to join the NMC Korean language program? (2) What day do you think is good? (3) What content do you want to learn in Korean language?

Contact Daniel Huh at 285-2221 or e-mail korean2221@gmail.com. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 20, 1999

Teno thumbs down pleas for budget hike

Some departments and agencies are unlikely to receive larger share of the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2000 due to the shrinking government revenues, but Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has pledged to infuse additional funds once its cash collections improve. "If we find additional money, we will allocate them. It is very difficult for us to accommodate everybody but we will definitely prioritize those who need it most," he told reporters. The statement came in the wake of mounting clamor from agencies for higher spending limit next year during a series of budget hearing being conducted by the House Ways and Means Committee.

Court goes after traffic violators

In efforts to force traffic violators to pay fines, the Superior Court is planning to publish in the newspapers the names of those who have ignored the citation and defied the warrant to show up in court. According to Judge Edward Manibusan, the measure will be implemented once the court has set up new computers to track people who have pending traffic citation. "As soon as the computerization of the traffic record is done, then we will have a better idea of those who have not paid and these are the people whom we are going to go after," he said in an interview.

July 20, 2000

Teno signs anti-porno law

Amid concerns on sex-related crimes in the island community, a new bill was signed into law yesterday by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio in an effort to shield minors under 18 years old from flagrant display of materials deemed pornographic in some local establishments. Public Law 12-9 also imposes stiffer penalties against merchants found violating the new restrictions with imprisonment of not more than one year and/or fine of up to \$5,000. Sponsored by House Health and Welfare Committee chair Rep. Malua T. Peter, the new law came in the wake of numerous complaints against some shops in the tourist district of Garapan openly trading pornographic materials.

Amendments to RP-CNMI bilateral pact readied

The Philippines and CNMI governments have agreed to sign a bilateral labor agreement in fresh efforts to better protect an estimated 20,000 Filipino workers in the Northern Marianas, RP Labor Undersecretary Felicisimo Joson disclosed yesterday. Mr. Joson, former chief of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, met with Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and other Commonwealth labor officials for an informal consultative meeting called for by an existing memorandum of agreement on labor between the Philippines and the CNMI. According to Mr. Joson, the reforms undertaken by the administration of Mr. Tenorio reaffirms the Commonwealth's commitment at providing migrant workers here with adequate means of protection against labor abuses.

July 20, 2001

Website slurs Saipan

Commonwealth officials unanimously expressed their contempt and scorn for an Internet smear campaign that not only denigrates Saipan but also actively discourages visitors from visiting the island. Saying that the matter do not deserve comment, most Saipan officials pointed out that the smear campaign's website-http://hometown.aol.com/forgetabilia/myhomepage/profile.htm-is anonymous, thus making it suspect and therefore not worth wasting their comments on. The website was last modified on July 11, 2001. "I refuse to dignify the comments made on that website. It's not even worth the paper it's printed on," said an indignant Press Secretary Frank S. Rosario, when shown a printed copy of the website.

CPA alerted vs. terrorists

The Federal Aviation Administration has alerted the Commonwealth Ports Authority against possible terrorist actions by Osama bin Laden's faction and other terror groups. In a memorandum to the CPA, FAA warned ports officials of the imminent threat, ordering all ports of entry to be placed on alert. The Saipan International Airport's alert status however, remain on level 3. The status, was hoisted in an extended period since the 1995 Oklahoma bombing incident. CPA Information Officer Travis Coffman said the FAA memorandum was received this week after the State Department alerted all US government facilities.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-DLNR/FW-112**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: AUGUST 12, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"TO REPLACE THE TERMITE DAMAGED WOOD CABINETS AND SHELVES IN THE FISHERIES WAREHOUSE FOR THE DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE - FISHERIES RESEARCH PROGRAM"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/s/ IGNACIO T. DELA CRUZ D.V.M.
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-DPS-115**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: AUGUST 12, 2009 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) POLICE PACKAGE MOTORCYCLES / 2-DPS-POLICE TRAFFIC SECTION - TINIAN & 2-DPS-POLICE TRAFFIC SECTION - ROTA CIF-TINIAN AND ROTA"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/s/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-CRM-120**

SUBMISSION: AUGUST 12, 2009 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/s/ JOHN B. JOYNER, PH.D.
DIRECTOR OF CRM

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-DCCA-109**

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 18, 2009 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL SERVICES FOR THE DEPT. OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS, DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES"


COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL INQUIRIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO MR. CALVANI P. DLGUERRERO, DIRECTOR OF DYS BY FAX TO: (670) 664-2560 OR E-MAIL TO calguerrero@gmail.com NO LATER THAN AUGUST 07, 2009, CLOSE OF BUSINESS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ MELVIN L.O. FAISAO
ACTING SECRETARY OF DCCA

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

 **U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration**

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Route 36 Windward/Chalan Kalabera Development, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration, Hawaii Division.
ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: This announces the availability of the Draft EA for the Route 36 Windward/Chalan Kalabera Development, Saipan, CNMI. The Draft EA evaluates the potential environmental consequences of proposed improvements to Route 36. The proposed action would widen, grade, and pave approximately 3.5 miles (5.6 km) of existing road between the Kingfisher Golf Course and Bird Island Lookout and replace two drainage crossings at Unai Fanhang and Unai Nanasu that are currently impassable. In addition, a scenic overlook at one of the drainage crossings may be constructed and the parking area at the Bird Island Lookout may be improved and expanded.

DATES: Public comment on the Draft EA will be accepted during the 30-day public comment period beginning July 20, 2009 and ending August 19, 2009. All comments received or postmarked by August 19, 2009 will be addressed in the Final EA.

ADDRESSES: To obtain copies of the Draft EA, contact Ms. Richelle Takara, Federal Highway Administration, Hawaii Division, BOX 50206, 300 Ala Moana Blvd. Rm 3-306 Honolulu, HI 96850.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Richelle Takara by phone at (808) 541-2700 ext. 2311, by e-mail at Richelle.Takara@dot.gov, or by mail at the above listed address.

 **INVITATION FOR BID
MVA-IFB-09-2296**

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lieutenant Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Managing Director of the Marianas Visitors Authority are soliciting sealed bids from qualified individuals or firms to print the CNMI Customs Declaration forms.

The scope of work may be picked up at the Marianas Visitors Authority, San Jose, Saipan during working hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

All bids must be signed, sealed and marked MVA-IFB09-2296 and submitted with one (1) original and two copies and must be received at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Drive, Saipan, no later than 3:00 p.m., Saipan Time, August 04, 2009.

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the bid if preference is claimed.

/s/ Perry J.P. Tenorio
MVA, Managing Director

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

Aquino, Moreno join Humanities Council Board

The NMI Council for the Humanities elected Joann T. Aquino and Richard D. Moreno to its Board of Directors during a quarterly meeting held last week.

Aquino holds a degree in Business Management from the University of Guam. She currently serves as the director of Little Darlings Early Childhood and Respite, Inc. where she is responsible for program leadership, quality control, health and safety, and fiscal management for three daycare centers.

Aquino is a member of a variety of community and professional organizations including the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, the CNMI Autism Society, and the Child Welfare League of America.

Moreno is a business development and asset manager for Bridge Capital, LLC, an international lending and real estate development company. Moreno holds a degree in Electrical Engineering from Louisiana Tech University and a Juris Doctor from Louisiana State University.



Aquino



Moreno

Prior to moving to Saipan, Moreno practiced law in Louisiana and served as a member of the Louisiana State Law Institute and the Lease Law Revision Committee. Moreno also clerked for federal judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Aquino and Moreno will serve three-year terms. They replace Delegate Gregorio C. "Kilili" Sablan and Herman "Jun Pan" T. Guerrero who departed from the board earlier this year. Sablan resigned from the board to assume his official duties as a member of the House of Representatives in Washington, D.C., while Guerrero recently finished his second three-year board term.

The Humanities Council's Board consists of 13 members, three of which are gubernatorial appointees. It is responsible for overseeing the council's staff and programs. For more information about the council and its programs, visit the council's website at www.nmihumanities.org. (PR)

Live Fire Releases set on FDM

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas (N3) Guam, would like to inform the general public that the U.S. Military Unit would be conducting Live Fire Releases (96 EBS) on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla. The schedule date and time is as follows:

- July 18 to 22 2009 from 3am to 3am: USNS Pathfinder Equipment Acceptance Test;
- July 21, 2009 from 7am to

1:00pm: PACDIV Aerial Survey; and

■ July 17, 2009 from 2:00pm to 12:59am: 96 EBS Live Fire Release

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla Training Area (R7201) on a ten (10) nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is strongly advising the

general public especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators to stay away from this area during the time and date indicated.

The cooperation and understanding of the general public is greatly appreciated.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the Emergency Management Office, Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF Marine CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. (EMO)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands DEPARTMENT OF LABOR DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

Second Floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan MP 96950



FINAL NOTICE ON BOND CLAIMS ALL LABOR AND CONSOLIDATED AGENCY CASES 2008 AND ALL PRIOR YEARS July 20, 2009, first notice July 27, 2009, second notice

COMPLAINANTS WHOSE ADMINISTRATIVE AWARDS HAVE NOT BEEN PAID:

All labor cases and all consolidated agency cases filed in 2008 and prior years have been adjudicated or dismissed by the Administrative Hearing Office. In each case, this is a final action by the Administrative Hearing Office. All claims for money damages have been adjudicated or dismissed.

Any complainant who was awarded money damages in a labor case or a consolidated agency case filed in 2008 or any prior year who has not been paid in full and **who has not previously registered** a bond claim with the Labor Department or **who does not have a court case pending** on a bond claim should register with the Labor Department. Please come to the Complaint Intake Section, Department of Labor, and fill out a declaration affirming that payment has not been made. Please bring a copy of the administrative order in your case and your entry permit card. A complainant who has not been paid has **until August 20, 2009** to report to the Complaint Intake Section.

If you have previously registered your bond claim with the Complaint Intake Section, your bond claim is being processed and you do not need to register again. The Department has published several notices with respect to groups of bond claims in order to process these claims in an efficient manner.

If you have filed a court case with respect to your bond claim, your claim is being processed by the court and the Department will not accept any registration.

If you previously registered your bond claim with the federal ombudsman, and you have not registered with the Labor Department, you need to register again with the Labor Department. The federal ombudsman has not supplied the Labor Department with the complete registration records that their office created. Notices with respect to all claims filed with the federal ombudsman's office, about which the Department has any information, have been published.

Not all awards in labor cases or consolidated agency cases are covered by bonds. Some awards are only partially covered because the terms of most labor bonds are limited to three months' wages and a set amount for medical expenses or repatriation tickets. The terms of labor bonds assume that foreign workers will file their claims promptly and will not let wage claims of more than three months accumulate. Some awards are not covered by a labor bond at all. Some employment was illegal because the employer never completed the Labor Department requirements and never supplied a bond. However, all unpaid awards from the Hearing Office should be registered and the Department will process all registered claims.

If you have questions about registering a bond claim, please call Renita Camacho, who is in charge of the Complaint Intake Office, at: 236-0958/7/6.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS Office of the Secretary of Public Works ENERGY DIVISION

P.O. Box 500340, Saipan, MP 96950

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PUBLIC HEARING:

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Governor in cooperation with the Department of Public Works/Energy Division will conduct a public hearing to receive comments on the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) State Plan for Program Year 2009.

The general public as well as interested parties are welcome to comment on the proposed State Plan. The public hearing will be held at the Pedro P. Tenorio, Multi-Purpose Center, Tuesday, July 28, 2009, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. A copy of the State Plan can be picked up at the Energy Division, Capital Hill, House #1337 on Friday July 24, 2009.

For those who cannot attend the public hearing in person, may submit their written comments to the Energy Division, Capital Hill, House #1337, Saipan; or can be e-mailed to: energy@pticom.com or by mail to P.O. Box 500340, Saipan, MP 96950 on or before 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 29, 2009.

ARONGORONGOL TOULAP:

Commonwealth Téél falúw kka falúwasch Efáng Marianas (CNMI), Bwulasiyool Sów Lemelem fengál me Bwulasiyool Public Works/Energy Division rebwe ayoora arongorongol toulap (public hearing) reel pomwol Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) llól ráágh ye 2009. Alongeer aramas me ngáre inaaawo iyo nge emmwel ebwe ayegehlong reel pomwol State Plan yeel.

Rebwe ayoora ammatat yeel me Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, wóól Mwattis, July (Wuun) 28, 2009 ótol 5:00 leefáf mwete ngáli 6:00 leefáf. Emmwel óubwe bwughi tilighial State Plan yeel mereel Energy Division, Capitol Hill, House #1337 wóól I Bennis, Wuun (July) 24, 2009.

Schóókka ese mmwel rebwe tabweey arongorong yeel, nge emmwel rebwe ischilong reel Energy Division, Capitol Hill, House # 1337, Seipel, me emmwel ubwe e-mail reel: energy@pticom.com me ngáre afanga reel P.O. Box 500340, Seipel, MP 96950 wóól me ngáre mmwal igha ebwe titilo ótol angaang wóól, Wuun 29, 2009

INEKUNGOK PUPBLIKU

I Commonwealth I Sankanttan na Islan Mariana siha (CNMI), Ofisinan I Gobietno yan I Depatamenton Public Works, Dibision Energy para u kondukta inekungok pupbliku para u maresibe mensahe pot I propositon Programan Weatherization Assistance (WAP) State Plan para I Program Year 2009.

I Pupbliku hinerat yan I maninteresao na pattida siha man makombida para ufan na-halom inason-niha gi I maproponi na State Plan. I inekungok Pupbliku para guato Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Mattes, Julio 28, 2009, 5:00pm esta 6:00pm. I Kopian I State Plan Siña machule gi Dibision Energy, Capital Hill, House # 1337 gi Betnes, Julio 24, 2009.

Para ayu siha I tisiña ma'atendi I inekungok, siña manahalom I sinentin-niha gi Dibision Energy Capital Hill house # 1337, Saipan pat e-mail guato energy@pticom.com, osino na hanao gi post P.O. Box 500340, Saipan, MP 96950 antes de umahuchom I ofisina gi, Julio, 29, 2009.

/s/ Diego B. Sonsong
Secretary of Public Works



Victim's Advocate services are available through Karidat

What is Family Violence?

It's the mistreatment of one family member by another.

Family violence includes:

Physical abuse

- Slapping, Hitting, Burning, etc.

Sexual abuse

- Rape, Incest

Emotional abuse

- Threats, Insults, Harassment

Neglect

- Poor Physical or Emotional Care

Family violence is a crime. It is a widespread problem in our society.

Some family members suffer from domestic violence and it hurts everyone involved. If this is happening in your family, you can get help by visiting Karidat Social Service or call our telephone #234-5248/234-6981 Monday through Friday from 8:00 am through 5:00 pm and after working hours call the Hotline at 234-5100. You can also visit the Karidat Social Services Office in Chalan Kanoa.

This project was supported by Grant Number 2007-VA-GX-0030 and 2008-VA-GX-0046 awarded to the CNMI Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) by the Victims of Crime Act Formula Grant Program, Office of the Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, and sub-granted by the CJPA Supervisory Council.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Walter Cronkite

“And that’s the way it is ...,” Walter Cronkite would say at the end of his nightly broadcasts, and then he’d declaim the day, month and year, thus confidently filing another 24-hour chapter in its proper place in the national chronicles. Not too many television newscasters could get away with that kind of definitive sign-off, today or ever, and Cronkite himself didn’t use it on the rare occasions when he closed out the evening news with a statement that reflected his own opinion. But if the Nielsen ratings are to be believed, much of America was quite content to let Cronkite be the arbiter of what news was worth watching, day in and day out, for two decades.

There was no blogging then, in a period that stretched from John F. Kennedy to the start of the Reagan administration, and not a lot of complaining about “the media.” The country had a few premier anchormen, and they were well respected for the most part. But what was it about Walter Cronkite in particular? Members of the YouTube generation might want to look up the video clips. They show Cronkite—that steady, gravitas-loaded voice, the tone always respectful of his subjects and his viewers—telling the country of the deaths of John F. Kennedy, of Martin Luther King Jr. and Lyndon Johnson. In many ways, some indefinable, he simply seemed the right person to carry such tidings. In some broadcasts, he glories in American triumphs in outer space. In others he reports on the nation’s tragedies—racial conflict, recession, war. And when, one evening in 1968, he said he could see nothing ahead in Vietnam but “stalemate,” it hit the country’s consciousness with far more impact than just a TV commentator voicing his opinion.

Cronkite was not a particularly telegenic fellow, nor did he attempt any theatrical touches to liven up the news. He looked like what he was: a serious, solid newsman, a veteran of the demanding wire service business who had seen more than his share of war, disaster and politics, had covered it all well, and could be trusted to give you a fair account. Cronkite took over the evening news at CBS in 1962, and the following year it was expanded from 15 minutes to a half-hour. He trailed the popular NBC team of Chet Huntley and David Brinkley in the ratings for some years but eventually ascended to the top and stayed there until his retirement in 1981. He had to leave at 65 because it was CBS policy; otherwise he could have gone on for many more years, and in a way he did so anyway. He did more work on TV specials, functioned as a sort of elder statesman for his trade, and lent his name and efforts to many good causes. He remained a respected and admired figure until his death Friday at the age of 92.

Walter Cronkite’s secret was that a huge number of Americans just trusted him. That’s the way it was—and probably never will be again.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post



Wave of forgiveness and healing

SANTA MONICA, Calif.—It’s another beautiful day in paradise, and I’m out on the ocean, riding waves with a former national surfing champion and onetime prostitute who’s about to join a seminary.

Go ahead, try to name one other state where I could have written that sentence.

“Terrific!” yells Mary Setterholm, my instructor, who forgives my every wipeout and cheers when I finally ride a wave all the way to shore.

Setterholm, who now runs a Santa Monica surfing school, won the U.S. Women’s title in 1972, at age 17. And you’re not going to believe where her trophy is: on Los Angeles Archdiocese Cardinal Roger M. Mahony’s desk.

Where do I even begin?

Perhaps with the e-mail from Ann Hayman, a minister at Brentwood Presbyterian, who remembered that I once wrote about a prostitute who lived in a Porta-Potty but later turned her life around. Hayman, who worked with prostitutes for 28 years, had someone she wanted me to meet.

So I drove to Brentwood, a tony Los Angeles neighborhood, to meet Hayman and Setterholm. Over coffee—and the next day at the beach—Setterholm spun a tale both tragic and triumphant:

As a young child, Setterholm told me, she was physically and sexually abused repeatedly by a baby-sitter, and then beginning in seventh grade, she was molested for years by a now-deceased priest from her Roman Catholic church in Los Angeles. When her family moved several miles south to the Huntington Beach area, Setterholm found herself drawn to the sea. There was honesty and security in the rhythm of the waves, but the ride to the shore was fraught with danger.

She routinely hitchhiked, and the men who picked her up—some of them regulars—took detours on the way to the beach. Setterholm was too damaged and confused to stop their advances, so she built a reality in which by charging them she established an illusion of control and even normalcy.

It was simple economics.

By STEVE LOPEZ
Los Angeles Times

Lopez is a columnist for the Times.



Survival.

“I was so used to perverted behavior by men; I didn’t know that what I was doing fit into the context of prostitution,” she said.

On the water, she was a fearless acrobat, but on the shore, she kept making all the wrong moves. She got married way too young, to the wrong guy, of course, and had five children before she had learned to take care of herself. When the marriage bombed, she returned to prostitution.

This pattern of self-destruction came as no surprise to a Catholic nun who helped Setterholm find her way past buried secrets, paralyzing hatred and self-loathing.

“I know many victims who try to work it out by getting into serial relationships,” said Sister Sheila McNiff, and it appeared to her that Setterholm had done precisely that, digging herself in deeper all the while.

McNiff was the victim assistance coordinator for the Los Angeles Archdiocese, serving under Mahony as the church began dealing with its scandalous history. She first heard from Setterholm in 2002, when the surf queen called to tell of the abuse she’d suffered 30 years prior.

“I asked her, ‘Where can I meet you?’” McNiff recalled. “She said, ‘At the beach.’”

It wasn’t long before nun and surfer had formed a mutual admiration society. Setterholm wasn’t looking for a financial settlement

See WAVE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Learn to read, read to learn

The above is the mantra that every Elementary School administrator and teaching faculty member of PSS of the CNMI makes at the start of every year. From K to 3rd grade, the student is to be drilled on learning how to read, and on 4th grade, the student is expected to read in order to learn.

That is quite a neat ditty to remember, and a nice package of a reminder to guide teachers and administrators alike in one of the assessment targets of PSS goals in the CNMI.

The intent would work save for one thing: it was meant for children who grew up learning to speak the language they are about to learn how to read. Unfortunately, that is not the case in the CNMI.

All of us learned our primary language by hearing, in the context of common usage. Sounds to form description of objects and actions, in the first instance, are abstracted into phonics represented by symbols such as the alphabet, a script, pictographs and characters.

There is a sense in which, save for a very few, the students of the CNMI PSS learn English as a second language. Families who are bilingual at home, or are English native speakers, will do better in language acquisition, and in the art and discipline of cognition at the higher grade levels. This should not come as a surprise. The whole learning process is predicated on the ability to abstract experience, and abstract terms are learned by rote in definitions, so those who are proficient in the English language because they are more familiar with a larger body of code words than others, get to be at the head of the class. The remaining 80 percent gets left on the wayside, not only wondering why, with all the effort exerted, they fail, or worst, that they develop a defeatist attitude wrapped in a self-deprecating, if not low self-esteem personal environment.

Contemporary epistemology (knowing what we know, learning how to learn) is clear that the five portals of our learning come with the senses of the bodies we are born with. Cultural emphases on what we see, hear, touch, smell, and taste often determine the thought patterns and behavioral habits that we inherit as well as develop.

We are not taught language that way, at least, not intentionally. We do not reflect from the objective level (what is verifiable and/or measurable) first before we express our preferences (e.g., pleasure or displeasure). Hardly do we evolve into critical thinking where sensibility is expressed in logical sequence, thus, our action is more a result of reflexive or conditioned response rather than deliberated or intentional deeds. Instead, we learn penmanship, spelling,

and definitions.

What would happen if we were to begin language instruction the way we naturally learn our native tongue by mimicking how to express our sense experience first, and learn how to listen to how this are expressed in the language we are learning?

What if we do not hurry the familiarity with the alphabet and numbers in the first instance, but bother to teach children words that would label what they *see, touch, taste, smell and hear*: We know that 80 percent of what is learned is seen, 10 percent is heard, while the remaining 10 percent is on what one tastes, smells, and touches.

A teacher would model his/her own experience by saying something like this: "On the way to school, I saw a huge yellow bus and heard the voices of children inside on their way to school. On your way to school, what sights did you see and what sounds did you hear?"

At the beginning, the teacher would not try to write anything on the board but would repeat the words used by the children, and on occasion, would offer alternative words, similar or synonymous, that might be used. But s/he would not convey any sense that a child is being right or wrong because one is not familiar with standard usage of words and sentence formation. Students would learn to use words to label what they saw and what they heard, rather than see and hear the words; they would see and hear the experience again rather than see and hear the standard symbols used to depict them.

In my 6th grade class at San Vicente Elementary School, I used to prepare lesson plans that had an *existential aim* (what will the students experience) and a *rational objective* (what will they remember). At the outset, the students are told what we would do (for the day and during an instructional unit), then they would be alerted that we are about to do it, then actually do it, and when done, we reflect on what we did. During the reflection, almost invariably, the students would neither be interactive (save the perennial "I don't know" response), and hardly authentic in their response (afraid that it is not the correct answer). They were trained to echo standard answers, not think through how and what they learned.

Before sending the class out on a Friday, or the last day of school during the week, an assignment is given to write about their weekend in a 100-200 word narrative, ready to be collected when they return the following Monday. The instruction would be emphatic on the SENSE experiences (see, taste, touch, smell, and hear). Reflection on what one enjoyed and disliked was encouraged, and thinking about what was learned and what decisions were made as a result of

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section



the experience were to be the concluding remarks.

A typical submission would go something like this: "*We went to the beach. My older sister was very mean. My brother was a bully. Me and my younger sister stayed in the shade. We took pictures with the cell phone. We did not like getting dark in the sun. My mother and auntie cooked. My father and uncles drank beer. It was a boring weekend. There was nothing to do. ...*" Narratives would be short on the informational level (objective). The beach would not be named and no time reference is used. Scenery descriptions would be missing, and if music is played, it is mentioned but not described. Eating would be included without reference to dishes or taste bud experience. Sense awareness would be lacking.

Descriptions on how and reasons on why the older sister was mean, and/or the brother a bully, would be missing. There would be a lot of reference to feeling good or bad, or someone was good or bad. Hardly is there a reflection on the meaning and/or significance of the day, what was learned, if any, and what actions resulted as a consequence of the weekend.

Standards and benchmarks at PSS expect more than this rudimentary and very basic level of cognition, and yet, our students are not taught to correlate their sense experience with the labels they learn in the new language they are expected to master.

It is, thus, easier for a teacher to simply decide on the 50 words s/he wants to drum into the students' heads during the week, test them on the proper spelling and definition of those terms, and grade them accordingly. There is movement in the cursory level of the rational objective, what they remember; there is hardly any indication in the grounding of the existential aim of what they experience. If we luck out on picking the words that will show up in standardized assessment tests, then our students will do well. And we call that learning!

‘Nai Kalu Esta Timota

Ni unu preparao para u chahlau finatsun `nai ha tutuhon timota man-kalu. Metgut gi hinasota na trabiha sisiña ha' ta rompi todo hogsu gi menata. Lau repara kau ti abarambao pinikatmu mona.

Gi finu' un' amku: "Metgot hinasoghu, lau hagas ha diñguyu fuetsan sinsenhu". Gai minagahet este ya ni unu u soplu ginen i naturat na finapos taotao.

Pot ihemplu: Benti años malofan, ha faisenyu i asaguahu para bai' na tunog I kestat pugas ginen i karetan mame (Pick-Up). Hu hala ensegidas i sinkuenta libra na kostat pugas. Dimalas! Guahu poduñg halom gi tatten tumobit. Hu eñgulu' i bisinu kao ti man-mana' atan. Adumididi hu arastrayu ginen i tatten kareta ya hu usuni halom gi kusina.

Ha faisenyu i asaguahu mañgge i kestat pugas. Hu esalague na ha tuñgo ha' hafa ilegña i mediku `nai marisetayu Hawaii. Huñgan, hagas hu dadagao ni akague na kanaihu antes i nobienta libra na kestat simientu. Lau guiya `nao `nai hobenyu. Esta pagu kulanyu finu famaguon, rusketi! A' Saina!

Lokue, gigun mao`tu timoghu, esta umi`ibayu ni putiña. Tai bali i hagian risetan haga sa' gigon maotuyu, hu upus sasalaguan ni binibuhu. Piot ya guaha gi oriya man-butleha. Hihoty mamunu ni mahlog hagian tatkilu haga'. Diberas, todú puti `nai sige hao u-mamku. Ni para un' makuentuse `an mao`tu sanotmu. Fañuha ya bai' iba' finenina! Ya guaha minaulegña umiba'—esta ti un' matagu `sino malaladi ni dipattamienton gera. Dispues, man-maliñgu `sino man-lagu ayu siha na sensin pichoghu, koduhu yan sanothu i hagas sumustetenyu antes.

Lau esta pagu hu guaguasan i oriyen guma, kontodu man-guadog hoyu para maseta yan sombra petmanente. Debi este i man-ninaye chetnut rusketi de u sessu mañgalamten `sino ni para un' mueba kanaimu kosake siña un' guot i laterian (sitbesa). Yangin ni lateria esta ti siña un' guot, pues kakantu hao gi chetnut laulau ñamun halom tanu. Ai, bumaila hau sin dandan dispues `nai kontodu tela' mu tutuhu papa' gi sikosmu.

Ayu na `an mafaisenyu kao listuyu madispone, ensegidas hu oppe "huñgan" sin ditinsion. Ya mas mauleg buente `an humanaoyu taftaf

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



John S. DelRosario is the Secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

antes de bai' huñgog, "Ai na mutuñg bihi si Tun Juan". Maulegña buente mutuñg ke lamug, hafa mohan? Mas fotte i tatatte sa' kontodo lalú' ti u arima.

Huñgan, este i finapos amku ti u mahñau. Todo siempre u fan malofan guennau na chalan. Huñgan metgut hinasoghu lau taigue esta i hagas fuetsaghu. Hombre `an ha atan babayu un' patgon gi halom tenda, ensegidas sumuhayu. Tatnai sisida para una' lalañgun naniñgyu gi entalu `stante. Sen mas, Si Yuus Maase'!

WAVE

From Page 10

with the institution that had betrayed her. She wanted to finally look into the eyes of church leaders, tell them what she'd been through, and pray that she'd be healed.

"She had a very strong sense of trying to be a reconciler," said McNiff, who worked with Setterholm to arrange "apology" Masses for victims.

McNiff also helped arrange a meeting with Mahony at Los Angeles' Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, and Setterholm had a lot to tell the good cardinal.

That he needed to do less moralizing and more listening.

That many victims can't feel safe again in a church.

That it was difficult for her to face him, but impossible to survive without doing so.

"She told him her story, and the cardinal apologized," said McNiff, who was in tears and could see that the cardinal was deeply moved as well.

Setterholm volunteered to pass a message from the cardinal to other victims.

"Tell them it is not their fault," she recalls him saying.

Setterholm held hands with the cardinal and prayed with him. And, as a gesture of reconciliation, she gave him one of her most prized possessions.

The trophy from her surfing championship.

"He said he would keep it on his desk," McNiff recalled.

(The cardinal was out of town last week and did not answer my interview request).

Setterholm has become something of a missionary since that encounter, reaching out to working women and street dwellers and bringing some of them into her own home in seaside Hermosa Beach, south of downtown Los Angeles. With McNiff and Hayman serving as mentors, she formed Serenity Sisters, a support group to help recovering prostitutes. And she runs Surf Bus, a program that brings hundreds of inner-city children to the beach each summer to learn how to surf.

McNiff persuaded Setterholm to go back to school, and she graduated from Loyola Marymount University last spring with a degree in the-

ology. Next month, she'll begin the master of divinity program at New York's Union Theological Seminary, which is affiliated with Columbia University. She was accepted by the school despite an application that included this entry under the "Work Experience" category:

"Prostitution, Independent street/sex worker; 1970-76 and 1992-11/3/2002."

In certain denominations, a graduate degree would mean that Setterholm had gone from prostitute to priest. She said she doesn't care about the title. She just wants to return to L.A. and run a ministry devoted to rescuing lost souls.

She'll never give up the surfing life, though, or working to turn more people onto the sport. Speaking of which, McNiff recalled one more thing Setterholm said to Mahony that day at the cathedral.

"She offered him surfing lessons at some point."

And what did the cardinal say?

"He did not commit himself," said McNiff.






Come to the beach, Your Eminence, and we'll hang 10 together. There's nothing as pure and cleansing as the ocean.

Mary Setterholm is a great teacher, and every wave is like another baptism.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers in the morning, then scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers in the morning, then scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲86 ▼77
Palau	Partly Sunny	▲85 ▼78
Yap	Cloudy	▲86 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88 ▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87 ▼74
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲89 ▼78
Majuro	Rain	▲86 ▼79

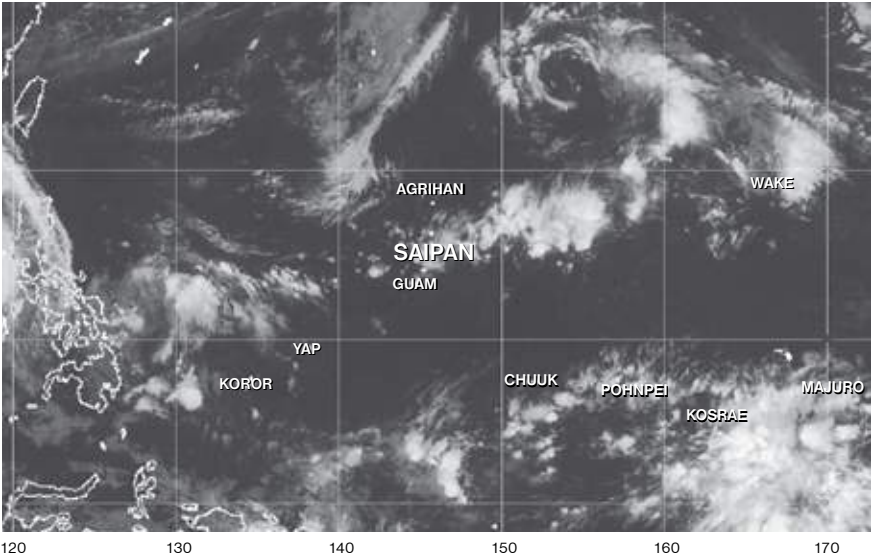
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲53 ▼43
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲96 ▼77
Hong Kong	Showers	▲90 ▼81
Honolulu	Showers	▲85 ▼76
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲73 ▼59
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲84 ▼64
Manila	Rain	▲86 ▼78
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲58 ▼42
Miami	Cloudy	▲90 ▼78
New York	Cloudy	▲80 ▼68
Osaka	Showers	▲85 ▼75
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲76 ▼64
Pusan	Cloudy	▲84 ▼76
Rome	Sunny	▲85 ▼65
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲82 ▼52
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲72 ▼54
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼68
Tokyo	Dreary	▲86 ▼74
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲82 ▼69

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:22 AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
12:11 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
7:35 PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A circulation near Minami Tori Shima is centered near 24N152E with a trough curving from 25N158E to 21N160E then southwestward to 16N153E and westward across Saipan to 15N143E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are within 300 miles of the circulation center and within 100 miles of the trough. Low-level convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 100 miles of a line from 21N141E to 18N141E. Upper-level divergence is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Wake Island within 125 miles of a line from 22N167E to 19N168E. A weak circulation just west of Palau is near 8N133E with a trough southeastward to 4N150E then eastward to a weak circulation near 3N168E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms west of Palau are west of a line from 14N139E to 6N132E and southeast of Palau south of a line from 4N137E to 4N148E. Scattered showers from south of Chuuk to near Pohnpei are within 75 miles of a line from 5N151E to 7N156E to 7N160E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Kosrae and Majuro are south of a line from 2N160E to 8N165E to 7N173E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers east of Majuro within 75 miles of a line from 7N176E to 8N178E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:56 AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Wednesday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:27 AM	5:03 PM
Tuesday	4:35 AM	6:04 PM
Wednesday	5:43 AM	7:00 PM
Thursday	6:49 AM	7:50 PM
Friday	7:51 AM	8:36 PM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2009

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) C09597 11:50am 12:25pm 1, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN C09598 3:15am 3:50am 5, 6 C09312 1:20pm 1:55pm 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM C09597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1, 7	GUAM-ROTA (ROP) C09598 2:10am 2:40am 5, 6 C09312 12:10pm 12:40pm 6
SAIPAN-GUAM C09317 4:20am 5:10am Daily C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily C09597 11:50am 1:20pm 1, 7 via ROP C09601 12:30pm 1:20pm 4, 5 C09603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily C09605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	GUAM-SAIPAN C09598 2:10am 3:50am 5, 6 via ROP C09316 2:20am 3:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 C09596 7:00am 7:50am Daily C09600 10:20am 11:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 C09312 12:10pm 1:55pm 6 via ROP C09602 2:00pm 2:50pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily C09606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) NW99 6:05am 8:40am Daily NW78 9:00am 2:05pm Daily via NGO NW75 3:50pm 6:25pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN NW76 10:00am 2:35pm Daily NW77 6:35pm 1:40am+1 Daily via NGO NW100 8:45pm 1:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am 1, 3, 4, 6	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:55pm 2:20am+1 2, 3, 5, 7
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO) NW78 9:00am 11:40am Daily	NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN NW77 9:10pm 1:40am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am 1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ605 9:00am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX OZ603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN FM843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) CZ3008 3:30am 6:40am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN CZ3007 7:30pm 2:40am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA OZ604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN OZ604/701 2:50am 11:25am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09317/893 4:30am 8:50am 7 via GUM C09603/933 3:30pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:45am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA-SAIPAN C0894/9604 10:00am 5:50pm 6 via GUM OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM OZ704/605 11:50pm 2:30pm+1 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG OZ604/721 2:20am 11:45am 1 via ICN OZ604/721 2:50am 11:45am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HONG KONG-SAIPAN OZ724/605 12:30am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Pacific

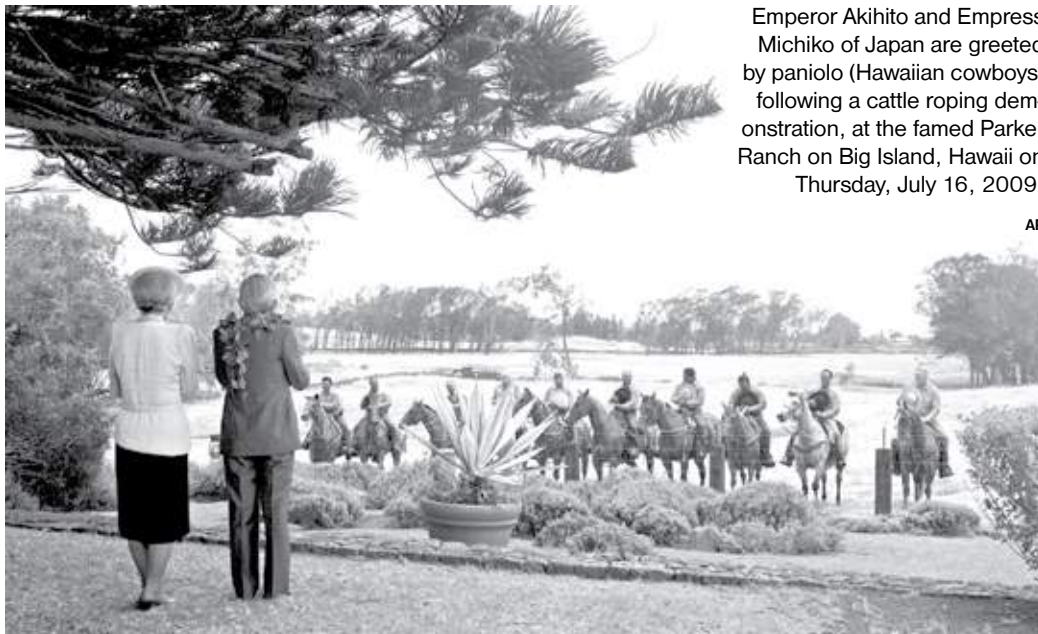
Japan's royal couple watches Hawaiian cowboys

KAMUELA, Hawaii (AP)—Japan's royal couple watched Hawaiian-style cattle roping on Thursday before returning to their homeland after a two-week tour of Canada and Hawaii.

Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko stood on a perch overlooking the Pacific Ocean as ten paniolo, or Hawaiian cowboys, lassoed two heads of cattle on a grassy field on the slopes of Mauna Kea volcano.

Using a technique—called Poo Wai U—pioneered by the first Hawaii cowboys in the 1800s, the paniolo tied the cattle to a Y-shaped post.

The original paniolo did this to control a wild cattle population that had exploded after King Kamehameha I banned hunting them in the early 19th century. The cowboys would tie the cattle to trees, leave, and then return about a day later to



Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko of Japan are greeted by paniolo (Hawaiian cowboys) following a cattle roping demonstration, at the famed Parker Ranch on Big Island, Hawaii on Thursday, July 16, 2009.

AP

capture the animals after they had tired themselves out.

Paniolo still practice the Poo Wai U, but there aren't many wild cattle in the islands these

days. Today, the technique is more commonly seen at Hawaii rodeos.

The Parker Ranch cowboys rode their horses up to the em-

peror and empress when they finished, formed a line, took off their hats, and bowed.

"He got to see real cowboys doing real cowboy stuff," said

Keoki Wood, Parker Ranch's livestock manager. "It's really an honor for all of us."

The empress, who injured her leg playing tennis in February, limped slightly as she walked from the couple's car to the main house on the ranch. The emperor, who wore a gray suit and tie, supported his wife by holding her elbow as they climbed the few steps at the house entrance. Michiko wore a yellow-green top, black skirt, and gray pumps.

The Imperial Household Agency warned before the couple left Tokyo in early July that the emperor and empress' health was "not in top form" and there might be some changes to their itinerary as a result.

Akihito, 75, has osteoporosis and is still recovering from stress-linked irregular pulse. He has also undergone sur-

gery and treatment for cancer. Michiko, 74, has also suffered from stress-related illnesses over the years.

But the couple went to all their planned events during their three-day Hawaii stay, starting on Wednesday with a visit to a tree they planted at Kapiolani Park in Waikiki in 1960.

They also paid their respects to U.S. war dead at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific and attended a banquet dinner celebrating the 50th anniversary of a scholarship Japanese-Americans in Hawaii set up as a wedding gift to the couple.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

France leaves Fiji out of Pacific Summit

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (Radio New Zealand International)—France has snubbed Fiji by not inviting its interim regime to this month's summit with Pacific leaders in New Caledonia. The summit will be the third in six years and will this year be chaired by the French foreign minister, Bernard Kouchner, standing in for Nicolas Sarkozy who was earlier expected to be the host. When France held the inaugural gathering in French Polynesia in 2003, a plane was dispatched from Tahiti to Suva to pick up the Fiji prime minister, Laisenia Qarase, for the day. The New Zealand foreign minister, Murray McCully, is likely to miss the Noumea summit because of a conflict of dates, with the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group due to meet in London at the same time to consider Fiji's full suspension. Fiji has already been suspended from the Pacific Islands Forum over the interim regime's refusal to relinquish power this year by holding an election three years after the last coup. Among those expected to attend the Noumea summit will be the French Polynesian youth and sports minister, Tauhiti Nena, as reportedly suggested by the territory's president, Oscar Temaru.

Sorcery fears lead to arrests in Fiji

MELBOURNE, Australia (Radio Australia)—Australia's Foreign Affairs Department says eight Australians spent a night in a Fiji prison this week over a meeting of the Freemasons society. Freemasonry is a fraternal organisation that arose from obscure origins—thought to be occupation-based—in the

late 16th to early 17th century. Its meetings include historic rituals. The Australians, who have since been released, were among a group of 14 held in Fiji, reportedly, on suspicion of sorcery. It is understood Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama granted the men an official pardon. The Australian Foreign Affairs Department says the group was detained in relation to the convening of a Masonic meeting without the correct permit. Police raided their Freemasons meeting after calls from frightened residents suspecting witchcraft. The group was held at Nadi police station for 24 hours.

Tahiti probe examines Flosse bank accounts

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (Radio New Zealand International)—Reports from French Polynesia say investigators have sought access to the bank accounts of the veteran politician, Gaston Flosse, as the probe into the so-called OPT affair continues. The Nouvelles de Tahiti says the investigators went through his records at the Papeete branch of the Banque de Tahiti. No further details are given but Mr Flosse is alleged to be implicated in the misuse of 10 million dollars of OPT funds. This comes as the French senate

president has announced that a meeting will be held next week to consider a request by the justice minister, Michele Alliot-Marie,

to list Mr Flosse's immunity as senator. This would allow the investigators to question Mr Flosse about the affair.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



I Norma E. Patanao is no longer connected with **Philpan International Corp. dba MC Asia International Corporation**. Therefore, I will no longer honor any transactions or phone calls made on my behalf. Please go directly to the mentioned company above for future inquiries.

LEGAL NOTICE ATTENTION

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), U.S. Department of Justice, gives notice that the property listed below was seized for forfeiture pursuant to Title 21, United States Code (U.S.C.), Section 881, because the property was used or acquired as a result of a violation of the Controlled Substances Act (Title 21, U.S.C., Sections 801 et seq.). An owner or lienor may file a petition for remission or mitigation of the forfeiture with the Forfeiture Counsel, Asset Forfeiture Section, Office of Operations Management, Drug Enforcement Administration, HQs Forfeiture Response, P.O. Box 1475, Quantico, Virginia 22134-1475, pursuant to Title 19, U.S.C., Section 1618, and the regulations governing the petition process set forth in Title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 9. Correspondence sent via private delivery must be sent to the Asset Forfeiture Section, Office of Operations Management, Drug Enforcement Administration, 2401 Jefferson Davis Highway, Alexandria, Virginia 22301. In addition to, or in lieu of petitioning for remission or mitigation, a person may contest the forfeiture of the seized property in UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT by filing a claim with the Forfeiture Counsel of the DEA pursuant to Title 18, U.S.C., Section 983(a). Upon the filing of a claim under Title 18, U.S.C., Section 983(a), a claimant may request, pursuant to Section 983(f), release of the seized property during the pendency of the forfeiture proceeding due to hardship. A petition, claim, or other correspondence shall be deemed filed with the Asset Forfeiture Section, when received by the DEA at either of the addresses noted above. Submissions by facsimile or other electronic means will not be accepted. The names of persons or businesses appearing in this notice are not necessarily criminal defendants or suspects, nor does the appearance of their names in this notice necessarily mean that they are the target of DEA investigations or other activities.

THIRD NOTICE
LAST DATE TO FILE AUGUST 20, 2009
PLACE SEIZED, SEIZED FROM, DATE SEIZED

DISTRICT OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
09-DEA-517620, 188,762 Tablets of Pseudoephedrine (AC/2009/0820/5613); VL: \$44,414.59, Saipan, MP, MARPAC, 04/24/09

[The property listed above is NOT for sale. The DEA DOES NOT sell forfeited property and the DEA DOES NOT have information on property for sale.]

LEGAL NOTICE ATTENTION

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), U.S. Department of Justice, gives notice that the property listed below was seized for forfeiture pursuant to Title 21, United States Code (U.S.C.), Section 881, because the property was used or acquired as a result of a violation of the Controlled Substances Act (Title 21, U.S.C., Sections 801 et seq.). An owner or lienor may file a petition for remission or mitigation of the forfeiture with the Forfeiture Counsel, Asset Forfeiture Section, Office of Operations Management, Drug Enforcement Administration, HQs Forfeiture Response, P.O. Box 1475, Quantico, Virginia 22134-1475, pursuant to Title 19, U.S.C., Section 1618, and the regulations governing the petition process set forth in Title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 9. Correspondence sent via private delivery must be sent to the Asset Forfeiture Section, Office of Operations Management, Drug Enforcement Administration, 2401 Jefferson Davis Highway, Alexandria, Virginia 22301. In addition to, or in lieu of petitioning for remission or mitigation, a person may contest the forfeiture of the seized property in UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT by filing a claim with the Forfeiture Counsel of the DEA pursuant to Title 18, U.S.C., Section 983(a). Upon the filing of a claim under Title 18, U.S.C., Section 983(a), a claimant may request, pursuant to Section 983(f), release of the seized property during the pendency of the forfeiture proceeding due to hardship. A petition, claim, or other correspondence shall be deemed filed with the Asset Forfeiture Section, when received by the DEA at either of the addresses noted above. Submissions by facsimile or other electronic means will not be accepted. The names of persons or businesses appearing in this notice are not necessarily criminal defendants or suspects, nor does the appearance of their names in this notice necessarily mean that they are the target of DEA investigations or other activities.

SECOND NOTICE
LAST DATE TO FILE AUGUST 27, 2009
PLACE SEIZED, SEIZED FROM, DATE SEIZED

DISTRICT OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
09-DEA-517596, 255 Kilograms of Potassium Permanganate (AC/2009/0820/5614), Saipan, MP, U.S. CNMI Corporation, 04/30/09

[The property listed above is NOT for sale. The DEA DOES NOT sell forfeited property and the DEA DOES NOT have information on property for sale.]

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff,
vs.
MANASSES S. BORJA, Defendant.

CIVIL CASE NO. 98-0223A
NOTICE OF SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the Order Following Status Conference and Order to Auction Real Property, dated July 6, 2009, issued by The Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Defendant Manasses S. Borja's reversionary interest in Lot 099 E 1, located in Talofofo, Saipan, will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder, on terms and conditions set forth herein below.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The Sale will be held on Friday, July 24, 2009, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. at the Law Offices of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes, Second Floor, Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. The property described as Lot 99 E 01, (formerly known as AH 268) as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 099 E 01, the original of which was recorded 19 Dec 89 as Document No. 89-4295 at Commonwealth Recorder's Saipan. It may be viewed and inspected one day prior to the sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute the basis for any claim, adjustment, or rescission of the auction sale. Schedule of inspection can be made before July 22, 2009, by calling O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes with Telephone No. (670) 234-5684 and Fax No. (670) 234-5683.

Warranties and Covenants. The property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant express or implied for the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.
A) **Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: 1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; 2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before the property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and 3) to reject any or all bids for any reason.
B) **Bids.** Bids may be submitted in advance. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the office of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes. The bidder assumes all risk. Any person, including the Plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.
C) **Payment.** The successful bidder shall pay the purchase price to the undersigned immediately after the sale is consummated.
D) **Change of Terms and Conditions.** The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

Dated, this 7th of July, 2009

/s/ O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes, Court-Appointed Auctioneer

Business

Jobless rate tops 10 percent in 15 states, DC

WASHINGTON (AP)—Fifteen states have crossed a painful threshold: 10 percent unemployment. More states, and the nation, likely will follow, one of the biggest dangers to an economic recovery.

How consumers behave in the face of rising unemployment will figure prominently in shaping a broader rebound. If they go back into hibernation and sharply cut spending like they did at the end of last year, the recovery could cave in. More likely is that consumers will stay cautious, making for a fragile and slow-moving national economic turnaround, economists said.

The Labor Department on

Friday said unemployment topped 10 percent in 15 states and the District of Columbia last month. And the jobless rate in Michigan surpassed 15 percent, the first time any state hit that mark since 1984.

The Federal Reserve this week projected that the national unemployment rate, currently at a 26-year high of 9.5 percent, will pass 10 percent by the end of the year. Most Fed policymakers said it could take "five or six years" for the economy and the labor market to get back on a path of long-term health.

"With so much uncertainty, companies will stay in cost-cutting mode and consumers will watch their spending,"

said Steve Cochrane, managing director at Moody's Economy.com.

The news was not all bad. North Dakota, helped by the oil business, reported the lowest unemployment rate of 4.2 percent in June. It was followed by Nebraska at 5 percent and South Dakota at 5.1 percent, supported by farm businesses. None of those states ever got carried away with the housing boom, either, so their residents didn't suffer as big a hit to household wealth.

Still, the state unemployment report underscored the damage that the longest recession since World War II has inflicted on companies, work-

ers and communities, and the challenges the economy faces getting back on its feet.

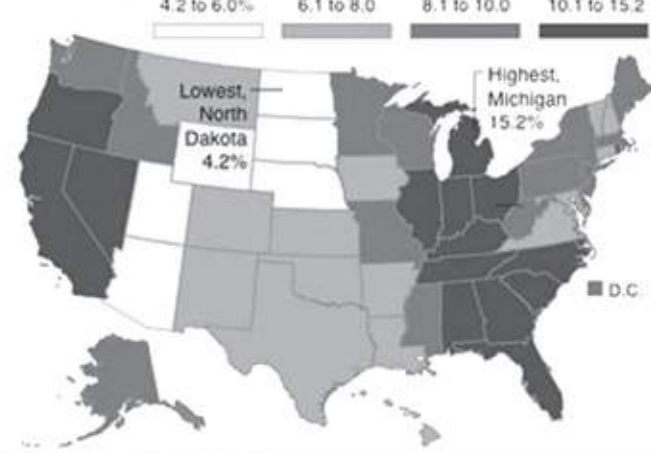
A common theme running through states suffering from high unemployment was heavy layoffs tied to the troubled auto industry and the collapse of the housing market. Workers in manufacturing, construction, retail and finance have been the hardest hit.

"A lot of older industries are having to shut down and many of these jobs will never come back," said Bernard Baumohl, chief global economist at the Economic Outlook Group.

Michigan jobless rate above 15 percent

Fifteen states had unemployment rates above 10 percent in June. The national rate was 9.5.

Unemployment rate, June 2009, seasonally adjusted



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics

AP

Banks report using govt. assistance for loans

WASHINGTON (AP)—The internal watchdog overseeing the government's financial bailout is pressing Treasury to seek more information from banks that receive taxpayer assistance, brandishing his own bank survey as evidence that such data can be obtained.

More than eight out of 10 banks responding to Special Inspector General Neil Barofsky's survey said money they received from the government had been used for loans or to avoid reduced lending.

Fewer than a third of the 360 banks surveyed said their lending levels would have been lower without money from the \$700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program. Banks also reported using the money to provide additional cushions of capital or to buy

other institutions.

The law that created the bailout fund did not require banks to segregate the government's assistance or to track how it was used, though Congress' intent was to increase loans, either directly or by unclogging credit markets. But there is no process in place to make sure the money is specifically used to boost lending and there are no consequences for banks that don't use it to that end.

Treasury's top official in charge of the program minimized the significance of Barofsky's survey, saying few conclusions could be drawn from the data.

"Although it might be tempting to do so, it is not possible to say that investment of TARP dollars resulted in particular

loans, investments or other activities by the recipient," Assistant Treasury Secretary Herbert Allison wrote in response to the Barofsky's audit.

Treasury conducts its own, more limited lending survey of 21 large banks. In its latest survey, released on Wednesday, Treasury reported that outstanding loan balances were flat in May and that the banks reported modest growth in new loan originations.

Even Barofsky cautioned that in his survey banks did not quantify the amount of new lending or the incremental difference in lending attributable to the bailout funds. As a result, Barofsky said there was not enough data to obtain an aggregate amount of new lending caused by the taxpayer infusions.

Regulators shut banks in Calif., Ga. and SD

WASHINGTON (AP)—Regulators on Friday shut two banks in California and two smaller banks in Georgia and South Dakota, boosting to 57 the number of federally insured banks to fail this year.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. was appointed receiver of the four banks. The two biggest were Temecula Valley Bank, in Temecula, Calif., with \$1.5 billion in assets and deposits of about \$1.3 billion as of May 31

and Vineyard Bank, National Association, of Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. It had assets of \$1.9 billion and \$1.6 billion in deposits as of March 31.

The two smaller banks were First Piedmont Bank, based in Winder, Ga., which had about \$115 million in assets and \$109 million in deposits as of July 6 and BankFirst, based in Sioux Falls, S.D., with around \$275 million in assets and \$254 million in deposits as of April 30.

The FDIC said all of Temu-

cula's deposits will be assumed by First-Citizens Bank and Trust Company of Raleigh, N.C. The bank also will purchase essentially all of the assets. San Diego-based California Bank & Trust agreed to assume the deposits of Vineyard Bank, excluding about \$134 million from brokers. California Bank & Trust will purchase about \$1.8 billion of assets. The FDIC will retain the remaining assets for later disposition.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Report: Porsche near deal with VW

FRANKFURT (AP)—The struggle over control of Porsche, the heavily leveraged maker of world-class sports cars including the 911, appears to be coming to an end, according to media reports. The German weekly news magazine Der Spiegel reported on its Web site Saturday that Wolfsburg-based Volkswagen AG would initially get 49.9 percent of Porsche AG and later take the remaining shares. The magazine did not reveal its sources in its report. A person familiar with the talks—which have fascinated corporate Germany for days—confirmed that the deal as described was likely. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because neither Porsche nor Volkswagen has released any

details of their talks or the deal itself.

June housing construction rises more than expected

WASHINGTON (AP)—Construction of new U.S. homes rose in June to the highest level in seven months as builders rushed to pour foundations for homes that must be completed by the end of November for first-time buyers to take advantage of a special tax break. The Commerce Department said Friday that construction of new homes and apartments jumped 3.6 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 582,000 units, from an upwardly revised rate of 562,000 in May. It was better than the 530,000-unit pace economists expected, and was the second straight monthly increase after April's record low of 479,000 units.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS WATER TASK FORCE RFP09-GOV-110

A&E of Tinian 0.5 Million Gallon Reservoir

Governor Benigno R. Fitia and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed Proposals from licensed architectural and engineering (A&E) firms for the Design of Tinian 0.5 Million Gallon Reservoir, Carolinas, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project Scope of Work will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, on or after **June 22, 2009**.

All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 pm, **July 7, 2009**, to Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager (facsimile) number (670) 664-2279.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of project approval from OIA.

The proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to local proposers per Public Law 15-95 as further amended by Public Law 15-118. If preference is claimed, it must be claimed at the time of proposal submission.

Four (4) copies plus one original of the sealed Proposals must be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than **2:00 p.m., (CNMI local time), on July 22, 2009**.

Proposals must be sealed and marked "**A&E of Tinian 0.5 Million Gallon Reservoir Project, RFP09- GOV-110**." For proposers within the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on July 22, 2009**. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on July 22, 2009**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or email procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and four (4) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **July 22, 2009** and must be received no later than **July 31, 2009**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

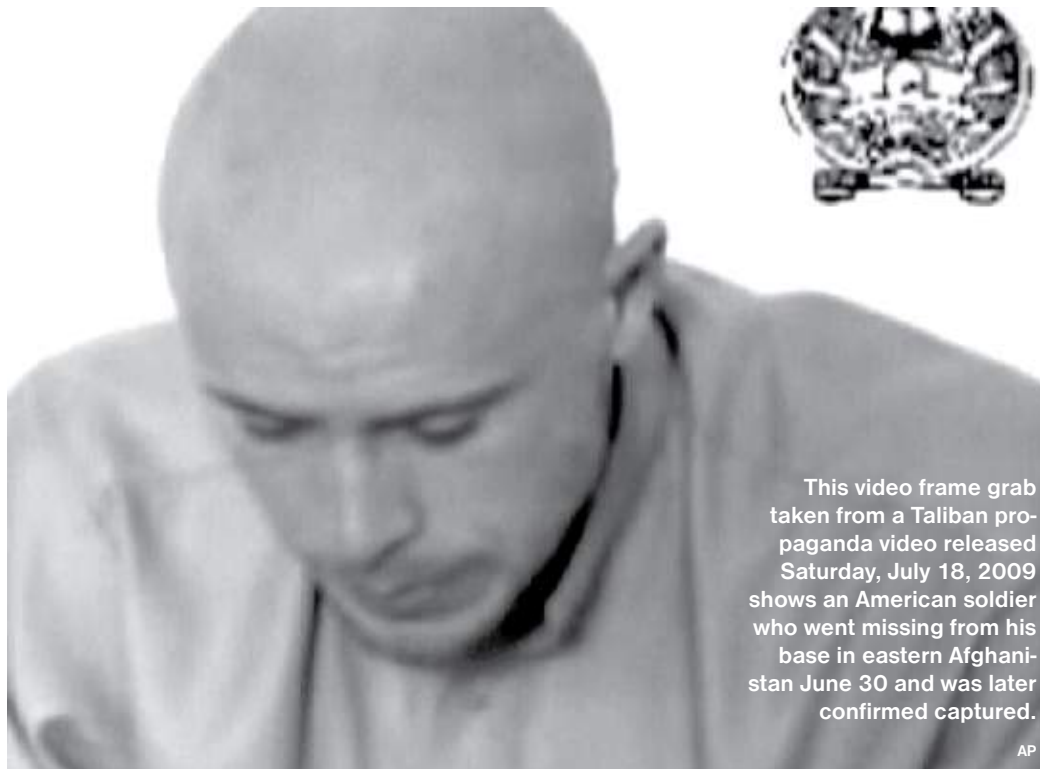
The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so shall be in the best interests of the CNMI. All Proposals shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

Benigno R. Fitia
Governor, CNMI

Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

Nation

AP sources: Taliban video shows captive US soldier



This video frame grab taken from a Taliban propaganda video released Saturday, July 18, 2009 shows an American soldier who went missing from his base in eastern Afghanistan June 30 and was later confirmed captured.

AP

Obama: Now is time to change health care

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama told the nation Saturday his health care overhaul is financially sound, but a new analysis by congressional budget experts of emerging House legislation said it would increase deficits by \$239 billion over a decade.

"I want to be very clear: I will not sign on to any health plan that adds to our deficits over the next decade," the president said in his weekly address. "And by helping improve quality and efficiency, the reforms we make will help

bring our deficits under control in the long-term," he added.

It was the sixth consecutive day Obama sought to keep the focus on his chief domestic priority in the face of mounting resistance on Capitol Hill, including from conservative Democrats. Republicans also renewed their criticism.

The president's remarks were released late Friday, a few hours before an update by the Congressional Budget Office said the overall cost of the House bill would "result in a net increase

in the federal budget deficit of \$239 billion over the 2010-2019 period." The estimate included the cost of higher Medicare fees for doctors, an important ingredient of the measure for the American Medical Association. The AMA, which represents physicians, endorsed the bill late last week.

The CBO analysis said the bill would result in a reduction in the deficit from 2010-2014 before it began to add red ink in gradually increasing amounts for the next five years.

Sotomayor would lend different experience to court

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sonia Sotomayor might find it was easier to disarm Republican senators who have one eye on Hispanic voters than to sway Supreme Court justices who have lifetime appointments.

She would be the new kid on the block in a group that values seniority and relationships built over years, even decades.



Sotomayor

But Sotomayor's self-assured performance before the Senate Judiciary Committee suggests

that her very presence in the high court's private conferences could change the conversation, in the same way though perhaps

not as much as Thurgood Marshall, the first black justice, did 42 years ago.

Four days of Senate hearings put the 55-year-old federal judge on the verge of becoming the first Hispanic and the

third female justice. The Senate is expected to vote on her confirmation in early August.

Sotomayor displayed an easy way with her questioners.

She joked with conservative Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., in an exchange about gun rights and told a story about her mother's disbelief when Sotomayor left a high-paying private practice to become a federal judge.

She told senators she was a "really good litigator" who has been successful in persuading colleagues wherever she has worked.

"I am mightily impressed," Coburn told her as he wrapped up his questioning Thursday.

body was discovered at a Huntsville, Ala., business, authorities said Tennessee Bureau of Investigation spokeswoman Kristin Helm said in an e-mail that a suspect, 30-year-old Jacob Shaffer, of Huntsville, was in custody in Lincoln County, but no charges had been filed. She said deputies found him on the porch of one of the Fayetteville homes.

Spacewalk Day: Astronauts install new porch on lab
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.

(AP)—Astronauts working inside and out installed a porch for experiments on Japan's enormous space station lab Saturday, accomplishing the major objective despite microphone static that often drowned out the spacewalkers' voices. Veteran spaceman David Wolf and rookie Timothy Kopra could barely make themselves understood at times because of the loud static emanating from Kopra's helmet microphones. "Dave, you're unreadable," astronaut Christopher Cassidy called from inside the shuttle-station complex.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The American soldier who went missing June 30 from his base in eastern Afghanistan and was later confirmed to have been captured, appeared on a video posted Saturday to a Web site by the Taliban.

Two U.S. defense officials confirmed to The Associated Press that the man in the video is the captured soldier. The video provides the first glimpse the public has had of the missing soldier.

The soldier is shown in the 28-minute video with his head shaved and the start of a beard. He is sitting and dressed in a nondescript, gray outfit. Early

in the video one of his captors holds the soldier's dog tag up to the camera. His name and ID number are clearly visible. He is shown eating at one point and sitting cross-legged.

The soldier, whose identity has not yet been released by the Pentagon pending notification of members of Congress and the soldier's family, says his name, age and hometown on the video, which was released Saturday on a Web site pointed out by the Taliban.

The soldier said the date is July 14. He says he was captured when he lagged behind on a patrol.

He is interviewed in English

by his captors, and he is asked his views on the war, which he calls extremely hard, his desire to learn more about Islam and the morale of American soldiers, which he said was low.

Asked how he was doing, the soldier said on the video:

"Well I'm scared, scared I won't be able to go home. It is very unnerving to be a prisoner."

He begins to answer questions in a matter-of-fact and sober voice, occasionally facing the camera, looking down and sometimes looking to the questioner on his left.

He later chokes up when discussing his family and his hope to marry his girlfriend.

DCCA CHILD CARE PROGRAM OPENS FOR NEW APPLICANTS (CNMI-wide)

To: All parents and/or Legal Guardians

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs will be doing a pre-eligibility assessment for new applicants for the Child Care and Development Fund (Child Care Program) for the island of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The pre-eligibility assessment for Saipan will be done on **Thursday, July 23, 2009** at the Multi-Purpose Hall, at 9:00a.m. The first 100 applicants who qualify during the pre-eligibility assessment will be given an application to complete. When the 100 applications are out, the program will immediately close its issuance of applications.

Pre-eligibility assessment for the islands of Tinian and Rota will be done at their respective DCCA Office.

Parents and/or guardians who are interested in applying for the program must go through the pre-eligibility assessment and will need to bring the following:

- Three (3) latest checkstubs showing the applicant's name, hours worked (at least 60 hours bi-weekly), hourly rate, and gross earnings (both parents)
- Most recent 1040 tax (both parents)
- School documents (acceptance letter, class schedule, etc.)
- Training schedule

Completed applications along with the required documents should be forwarded to the Child Care Program Office, no later than **Friday, July 31, 2009 at 12:00p.m.** Incomplete applications as well as applications turned in after this time and date will not be accepted.

Completed applications should be forwarded to:

DCCA Child Care Program Office
Caller Box 10007
Building no. 1347 Ascension Ct.
Capital Hill, Saipan
Tel. No. 664-2575/76
Fax No. 664-2570

For this program opening approved applications will be funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and is only valid for one year.

Requirements:

Applicant of Household

1. Check stubs for the most recent three pay periods for each parent or guardian
2. A copy of Identification Card for each parent or guardian (Passport, CNMI driver's license, Mayor's ID Card or entry permit)
3. A copy of your most recent 1040 Tax (each parent or guardian)
4. Residency: The applicant or guardian must be living in the CNMI
Provide one of the following documents
 - a. House Rental/ Mortgage
 - b. Utility Receipt
 - c. Telephone Receipt
 - d. Entry Permit
5. Employment verification
6. Child support statement/stub
7. Training/Education Verification and class schedules
8. If single parent/guardian in a household provide notarized affidavit

Child/Children Household member:

1. A copy of Birth Certificate for each child (Child must be a US citizen or a qualified alien, as defined in Personal Responsibility Work Opportunity Act (PRWORA))
2. A copy of US Passport
3. A copy of Social Security Card

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: 6 slain in Tenn., Ala.; suspect in custody

FAYETTEVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Six slayings in two communities about 30 miles apart in Tennessee and Alabama are linked, and a suspect who was sitting on the front porch of a home where some the bodies were found was being questioned, authorities said Saturday.

Five people, including members of the same family, were found dead in two rural homes near Fayetteville in southern Tennessee Saturday, and a sixth

Asia

Fugitive terrorist a suspect in Indonesia bombings

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—The mangled faces of two suspected suicide attackers may be the main clue linking the bombings of two luxury American hotels in the Indonesian capital with a notorious al-Qaida-linked militant network that has struck

many times before.

Investigators worked with medical teams Saturday to reconstruct the remains of the culprits believed to have set off explosions that tore through the restaurants of the J.W. Marriott and Ritz-Carlton at breakfast

time the day before. Seven were killed, plus the two suspected attackers, and 50 wounded, many of them foreigners.

The method, target and type of bombs used in Friday's attacks immediately raised suspicions of involvement by the

Jemaah Islamiyah terror group and Noordin M. Top, the fugitive Malaysian national who heads a particularly violent offshoot of the network.

While National Police spokesman Maj. Gen. Nanan Soekarna said they "cannot say for sure whether Noordin M. Top led this bombing," others were more certain.

"I'm 200 percent sure this was his work," said Nasir Abbas, a former Jemaah Islamiyah leader turned police informant who has worked with police on investigations into Indonesia's last three terrorist attacks.

A police investigator told The Associated Press on Saturday that Noordin was the most likely suspect.

"Considering the target, the location and content of the bombs, it was clearly the work of Noordin," the investigator said, declining to give his name

because he wasn't authorized to speak to the media.

The investigator said a hotel receptionist told police that one of the suspected bombers who checked into the hotel days before gave his name as "Nuridin." He gave a \$1,000 cash deposit because he had no credit card, he said.

Noordin, an engineer and alleged bomb-maker, is accused of masterminding four major strikes in Indonesia with the help of al-Qaida that killed more than 240 people, including the 2002 and 2005 Bali bombings, a strike on the J.W. Marriott in 2003, and a huge blast at the Australian Embassy in Jakarta in 2004 when a ton of explosives was hidden in a delivery van.

Police said they were also following leads in the Cilacap region of Central Java, where explosives were reportedly found

buried in a garden last week at the house of Noordin's father-in-law, who is also at large.

"We can't say for certain which network is involved in this bombing," Soekarna said. "There are similarities with the bombs found in Cilacap and Bali."

Sidney Jones, a Southeast Asian terrorism analyst for the International Crisis Group, believes it "is clear that there is a direct link with Noordin through (his father-in-law), and clearly Noordin was staying in Cilacap at that time."

"I think Noordin will remain a threat until he is captured," she told Indonesian television channel MetroTV.

Investigators have been examining body parts and other forensic evidence from Friday's attacks in an attempt to identify the two suspected bombers, one of whom is believed to be Indonesian.



Mourners lay flowers and pray at a makeshift shrine outside the Ritz Carlton Hotel bombing site in Jakarta, Indonesia, Sunday, July 19, 2009.

AP

China says police killed 12 in Urumqi rioting

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese police killed 12 people during July 5 rioting in the western city of Urumqi, officials said—a rare acknowledgment by the government that security forces opened fire in the worst ethnic clashes to hit the region in decades.

The unrest began when a peaceful protest by Muslim ethnic minority Uighurs turned violent after it was stopped by police. The Uighurs went on a rampage in the capital of Xinjiang province, smashing windows, burning cars and beating Han Chinese, the nation's dominant ethnic group.

Two days after the first rioting, vigilante groups of ethnic Han took to the streets and at-

tacked Uighurs.

Xinjiang Governor Nur Bekri said police shot the "mobsters" on July 5 after first firing warning shots, according to a report late Saturday by the official Xinhua News Agency. He apparently did not say which ethnic group the "mobsters" belonged to.

"The police showed as much restraint as possible during the unrest," Bekri was quoted as saying, adding that many police officers were injured and one was killed.

An official surnamed Wu from the Xinjiang regional government information office confirmed the report Sunday. Wu could not say if those killed by police were Uighurs

or Han Chinese.

The governor said three of them died on the spot and nine died after treatment failed.

The government first acknowledged that its security forces had opened fire more than a week after the rioting started, when police shot dead two Uighurs and wounded a third July 13. An Urumqi official said the Uighurs started fighting with police after officers tried to stop them from attacking a fellow Uighur.

In Saturday's Xinhua report, Bekri also said the death toll from the unrest had risen to 197. The government had previously said the rioting killed 192 and injured 1,721. Most of the dead were Han Chinese.

War refugees interned in camps built by donors

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—In just six months, one of the world's largest camps for war refugees has been carved out of the jungles of northern Sri Lanka, complete with banks, post offices, schools and a supermarket. But no one is allowed out, and hardly anyone is allowed in.

Aid workers and foreign diplomats increasingly fear that Manik Farm, a facility they helped build, is actually a military-run internment camp where 210,000 ethnic Tamil civilians displaced by the civil war are being held indefinitely. Govern-

ment memos and U.N. documents obtained by The Associated Press, as well as interviews with more than two dozen aid workers, U.N. officials, diplomats and rights advocates, detail how the international community poured tens of millions of dollars into these camps, despite their concerns.

"At best, it is at the edge of all kinds of international principles," said one Western diplomat based in Colombo, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals from the government. "But more likely, it is illegal."

The documents and inter-

views also reveal what appear to be worsening conditions at the camp, which houses civilians displaced in the final, bloody battles of the quarter-century civil war that ended two months ago.

In June, chicken pox was rampant and cases of typhoid, tuberculosis, skin and respiratory infections, hepatitis A, scabies and diarrhea have begun cropping up, according to U.N. reports. More than 35 percent of children under 5 are suffering from wasting, or acute malnutrition, according to a July 3 government presentation leaked to the AP.

US envoy calls for patience on North Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A top U.S. envoy called Saturday for patience in getting North Korea to abandon its nuclear programs, a day after Washington warned of aggressive sanctions unless the North returns to stalled disarmament talks.

North Korea withdrew from the six-nation talks in April to protest a U.N. statement condemning a rocket launch. North Korea insisted it sent a satellite into orbit, while the U.S. and its allies said it was actually a long-range missile test.

North Korea's No. 2 leader, Kim Jong Nam, said this past week that his country is not ready to resume the talks—which involve the two Koreas, the U.S., Japan, China and Russia—because the U.S. and its allies do not respect its

sovereignty.

North Korea conducted its second nuclear test in May and a barrage of missile tests in July, drawing harsh international condemnation and new U.N. sanctions.

Kurt Campbell, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for East Asia and Pacific affairs, said there have to be "consequences" for North Korea's provocations, but also offered to hold talks with the North within the six-nation process if it returns to the negotiating table and takes irreversible steps to disable its nuclear program.

"At this juncture, the most important quality that the United States, South Korea, Japan, China and Russia can demonstrate is patience," he told reporters in Seoul on Saturday after meeting with his South Korean counterpart.

He said the path North Korea has taken is unsustainable and it is likely to ultimately choose to re-engage with other nations.

Campbell is to meet with South Korea's foreign minister and its top nuclear envoy on Monday.

His trip comes as the U.S. is moving to enforce U.N. as well as its own sanctions against North Korea for its May 25 nuclear test.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Philip Crowley urged North Korea on Friday to return to the nuclear talks and begin taking irreversible steps toward denuclearization.

He also warned that the U.S. will continue pressuring North Korea into giving up its nuclear programs, saying Washington is "aggressively implementing" the U.N. sanctions.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Clinton defends US demands for anti-terror help

MUMBAI, India (AP)—Off the injured list and back on the world stage, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton on Saturday gave an impassioned defense of American demands that India and other countries do more to tackle terrorism and global warming. Opening a three-day visit to India, Clinton sought to emphasize common interests, symbolized by the terrorist attacks in this seaside city last November that killed 166 people. "It must be stopped," she said, adding that the United States cannot do it alone. Part of the backdrop to Clinton's visit is a sense of unease among Indians that the Obama administration is focusing more on its anti-terror campaigns in Afghanistan and Pakistan, at the expense of attention to the world's largest democracy.

US fighter jet crashes in Afghanistan; 2 crew dead

KABUL (AP)—A U.S. Air Force F-15E Strike Eagle fighter jet crashed early Saturday in central Afghanistan, killing the two crew members, the U.S. military said. Also Saturday, a suicide driver

blew up his explosive-laden vehicle next to an Afghan army convoy in Zabul province, killing three soldiers and wounding three others, Defense Ministry spokesman Mohammad Zahir Azimi said. A statement by the Air Force Central Command said the crash was not due to hostile fire, and a board of officers would be convened to determine the cause. Names of the crew members were not released. Their deaths bring to 50 the number of international service members killed in Afghanistan in July—already the deadliest month of the war for NATO forces.

Italian freed in Philippines returns home

ROME (AP)—An Italian aid worker held captive in the Philippine jungle for six months by al-Qaida-linked militants returned home to celebrations in his small Tuscan town on Saturday. Gaunt but smiling, Eugenio Vagni landed in Bologna and continued on to his hometown of Montevarchi, which welcomed him with an open-air party in a piazza. He joked with reporters that it was good to be back, "especially after this six-months vacation that was very hard."

World

Honduran talks snag on proposal for unity govt

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP)—Honduras' interim government rejected a mediator's proposal to reinstate ousted President Manuel Zelaya and form a national unity government, throwing negotiations on settling the political crisis into doubt Saturday night.

Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, who is mediating the U.S.-backed talks, said both sides agreed to hold more talks

Sunday, but he acknowledged they were far apart over how to end the dispute over a June 28 coup that toppled Zelaya and send him into exile.

"We have to make an effort to bring the positions closer," Arias, who won the 1987 Nobel Peace Prize for his role in ending Central America's civil wars, said at the end of Saturday's round of talks.

Zelaya had issued a midnight

Saturday deadline for a deal, saying if he wasn't restored to power by then he would declare the talks failed. But his negotiators apparently agreed to extend the deadline.

The exiled leader has vowed to slip back into Honduras to reclaim the presidency if the talks fail, and interim president Roberto Micheletti promises to arrest him upon arrival. The crisis over the

June 28 coup has become a key test for democracy in Latin America and for U.S. diplomacy in the region.

During Saturday's talks, Arias issued a statement proposing a plan that would let Zelaya serve out the final months of his term, move up elections by one month to late October, grant amnesty for all political crimes committed before and after the June 28 coup, and

include representatives of the main political parties in a reconciliation government.

But the proposal would limit Zelaya's power, obliging him to cede control of the military to an electoral court a month before the elections to ensure impartiality. He would also have to

renounce his plan to hold a referendum on retooling the constitution, which was the spark that launched the coup after the Supreme Court, military and Congress all objected to the vote. Zelaya has said he is willing to cancel plans for the referendum.

Hard-liners accuse top Iranian cleric of defiance

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iranian hard-liners on Saturday accused one of the country's most powerful clerics of encouraging opposition supporters to continue their postelection protests, a day after he criticized the ruling system's response to the disputed election.

Former President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's Friday sermon was a direct challenge to Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and his hard-line supporters, who have said last month's election was fair and have called on oppo-

sition supporters to drop their claims of massive vote fraud.

The protest movement and the split it has caused within the highest reaches of Iran's clerical hierarchy have presented Khamenei with the country's greatest challenge since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Hard-liners like Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi struck back at Rafsanjani on Saturday, saying his speech would endanger the country by inciting supporters of opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi to take to the streets as they did in June by the hundreds

of thousands to protest President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's disputed re-election. Mousavi claims to have won the vote.

"The leader (Khamenei) removed the threat of riots, but Mr. Rafsanjani is again seeking to provoke the danger," Yazdi was quoted as saying by the semiofficial Fars news agency.

Thousands of protesters clashed with police Friday after Rafsanjani's sermon at Tehran University in the biggest opposition show of strength in weeks. Pro-government Basiji militiamen charged the crowd

on motorcycles wielding batons and fired volleys of tear gas, using the kind of violent repression that has been common. Hundreds have been arrested since the June 12 election and at least 20 killed.

Rafsanjani, who broke his silence for the first time since the election, denounced the government's violent crackdown against protesters and demanded the release of those detained. Instead of suppression, he said the government should work to address the concerns Iranians have over the legitimacy of the vote.



A supporter of Honduras' ousted President Manuel Zelaya protests in Catacamas, Honduras, Saturday, July 18, 2009. AP

Israel: Lebanon blast shows 'flagrant' violations

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel accused Iran and Syria on Thursday of sending weapons to Lebanon's Hezbollah in violation of U.N. resolutions, after one of the militant group's weapons depots blew up near the Israeli border.

Israel, which fought a fierce but inconclusive monthlong war with Hezbollah in 2006, has long charged that the Islamic group is rearming and preparing for another round of fighting.

Hezbollah, which is both a powerful political party and a guerrilla movement, is backed

by both Syria and Iran. The conditions of the 2006 cease-fire that ended the Israel-Hezbollah war prohibit weapons smuggling to Hezbollah and forbid the group from engaging in military activities in south Lebanon.

Hezbollah's political influence has burgeoned since the war, and according to Israel and Hezbollah itself, so has its military might—adding to growing regional alarm over the power of its major patron, Iran.

A senior Israeli officer told reporters the warehouse that blew up on Tuesday in southern Leba-

non contained active, short-range rockets that were smuggled from Syria. The Israeli military, he said, had aerial pictures of the site after the explosion.

"The walls of the building were crushed and there are also many holes in the roof of the building," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity under military regulations. "We believe that this is one of dozens of ammunition storage (depots) in southern Lebanon that were built by Hezbollah." This particular depot is part of "the buildup of the Hezbollah force"

in Lebanon, he added.

Hezbollah has not commented on the explosion in the village of Khirbet Silim, 10 miles (15 kilometers) north of Israel's border.

World's oldest man, WWI veteran dies

LONDON (AP)—Only death could silence Henry Allingham.

He went to war as a teenager, helped keep flimsy aircraft flying, survived his wounds and came home from World War I to a long—very long—and fruitful life.

But only in his last years did he discover his true mission: to remind new generations of the sacrifices of the millions slaughtered in the trenches, killed in the air, or lost at sea in what

Britons call the Great War.

Allingham, who was the world's oldest man when he died Saturday at 113, attributed his remarkable longevity to "cigarettes, whisky and wild, wild women."

Jokes aside, he was a modest man who served as Britain's conscience, reminding young people time and time again about the true cost of war.

"I want everyone to know," he told The Associated Press during an interview in Novem-

ber. "They died for us."

He was the last surviving original member of the Royal Air Force, which was formed in 1918. He made it a personal crusade to talk about a conflict that wiped out much of a generation. Though nearly blind, he would take the outstretched hands of visitors in both of his, gaze into the eyes of children, veterans and journalists and deliver a message he wanted them all to remember about those left on the battlefield.

"I don't want to see them forgotten," he would say quietly. "We were pals."

Only a handful of World War I veterans remain of the estimated 68 million mobilized. There are no French veterans left alive; just one left now in Britain; and the last living American-born veteran is Frank Woodruff Buckles of Charles Town, West Virginia. The man believed to have been Germany's last surviving soldier has also died.

"It's the end of an era—a very special and unique generation," said Allingham's friend, Dennis Goodwin. "The British people owe them a great deal of gratitude."



Britain's oldest man Henry Allingham aged 112 and the last British serviceman alive to have volunteered for active duty in the First World War, holds a copy of his book at a launch in London, in this Sept. 23, 2008 file photo. AP

WORLD BRIEFS

US tells Israel to halt east Jerusalem project

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli radio stations say the U.S. has told Israel to halt an east Jerusalem construction project. The international community considers Jewish neighborhoods in east Jerusalem to be settlements and an obstacle to Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking. Israel does not regard them as settlements because it annexed east Jerusalem in 1967 after capturing it in June of that year. The Palestinians want east Jerusalem as capital of their future state. Israel Radio and Army Radio report Sunday that Israel's ambassador to the U.S. was summoned to the State Department over the weekend. The stations say Michael Oren was told the project developed by American millionaire Irving Moskowitz should not go ahead.

Post-coup Mauritania holds presidential vote

NOUAKCHOTT, Mauritania (AP)—A former army general who seized power by overthrowing this Islamic republic's first freely elected president last year is gunning for Mauritania's presidency

again—this time legitimately, through the ballot box. Saturday's election represents a chance for the coup-plagued desert nation, which straddles the Arab and African worlds, to end decades of military rule and resurrect billions of dollars in frozen aid once pledged by international donors. But in a country where military strongmen wield more power and influence than the constitution or any written law, neither task will be easy.

Somali insurgent group to try French hostages

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Two French security advisers being held hostage in Somalia will soon be tried under Islamic law for alleged spying and "conspiracy against Islam," a senior member of a rebel group holding the men said Saturday. The official with the insurgent group al-Shabab said no date had been set for the trial. He asked that his name not be published because he is not authorized to speak to the media on the matter. The Shabab has been criticized for its severe forms of punishment, including public executions, stonings and amputations.

Health & Fitness

Staying healthy with age is a moving experience

By JEANNINE STEIN
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

You may have heard the advice “If you exercise, you’ll live longer.” The good news—or the bad news, if you hate doing anything more active than downloading iTunes—is that it’s true.

Research backs this up. A 2007 study in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that fitter people lived longer, even if they had extra pounds around the middle. Among 2,603 adults 60 and older enrolled in that longitudinal study, the fittest people (those who did best on a treadmill test) also had the lowest risk factors for hypertension, diabetes and high cholesterol.

Most of the negative changes to our bodies over time can be chalked up to two things, says Wojtek Chodzko-Zajko, head of the department of kinesiology at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign: normal aging and disease-related aging (that is, changes accelerated by illnesses and conditions such as diabetes and heart disease).

Exercise, he says, can reduce the severity of both types.

■ **Strength maintenance:** Normal aging results in a gradual loss of muscle mass (about 1 percent a year) that begins in middle age.

Strength-training can offset this loss, called sarcopenia, Chodzko-Zajko says. “The link between functionality and longevity may be indirect but more muscle mass allows you to be ambulatory and maintain function, whereas in a wheelchair you can’t.”

Having stronger muscles—especially leg muscles—and better balance may mean fewer falls, a leading cause of death among the elderly, according to the American Geriatrics Society.

■ **Cardiovascular health:** Over time, arteries become stiffer, paving the way for cardiovascular disease. The chemical composition of the artery walls begins to shift, says Douglas Seals, a professor in the department of integrative physiology at the University of Colorado, making the walls more rigid.

“That stiffening of the arteries can cause changes in your blood pressure,” putting extra stress on the heart, Seals adds.

Regular aerobic exercise, he says, slows or reverses some of the changes.

■ **Diabetes risk:** As we age, blood-glucose control becomes less robust, making us more insulin-resistant and increasingly susceptible to diabetes. People also tend to gain weight as they age, further upping the chances for developing the disease.

During aerobic exercise, muscles take up glucose from the blood and use it for fuel, keeping the body’s blood sugar levels low.

Exercise also causes the pancreas to decrease production of insulin. Continuous, steady exercise especially causes the liver to take lactic acid, amino acids and fats and turn them into glucose, further feeding the muscles and regulating blood sugar levels.

■ **Inflammation control:** Inflammation can also worsen as we age and become exacerbated by extra weight, upping the risk for cardiovascular disease, lowering the immune system and paving the way for bacteria and viruses to take hold—even cancer cells to grow. But exercise may cause a decrease in levels of C-reactive protein, a marker for inflammation.

Researchers using cross-sectional data from the Health, Aging and Body Composition Study found that among 3,075 men and women ages 70 to 79, inflammatory markers were lower in those

who had higher levels of exercise and physical activity, as well as those who used antioxidant supplements, regardless of their exercise level. The 2004 study appeared in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society.

■ **Brain health:** A small study found that older adults who did a minimum of 180 minutes per week of aerobic activity a week for 10 consecutive years had more small-diameter blood vessels with less twisting than a less active group that did less than 90 minutes of physical activity a week. The vessels of the more active group had a vessel pattern that was similar to those of younger people. The study appears this month in the American Journal of Neuroradiology.

The research leaves no doubt that activity isn’t just meant for the younger years. “Human beings were active animals on the grassy savannas of Africa with high levels of energy expenditure,” says Steven Blair, a professor in the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina. “That’s the kind of critter we are. But we’re at the point now where we’ve engineered energy expenditure out of our lives, and that isn’t good for us.”

Studies linking exercise to living longer sometimes leave off the important message that being physically active improves the quality of life as well.

“Eat, drink and be merry and die happy—who am I to argue if that’s what you want to do?” Blair says. “But I’ve never met anyone who has said they want to spend the last five years of their life frail, feeble and living in a nursing home.

The very best insurance that you can take out to maintain your independence and be able to function is to be physically active.”

Jerry Taft is a believer. Ten years ago, the Los Angeles actor and performer was 30 pounds heavier and mostly sedentary. Now in his 70s, he hits the Los Angeles Athletic Club twice a day and tap dances to stay in shape.

“I wanted to be my young, handsome self again,” he says, explaining his motivation for deciding, a decade

ago, to get in shape.

But he regained more than his trim physique—he says he has better lung capacity (which aids his singing) and hasn’t developed any of the diseases, such as diabetes and heart disease, that plague his peers.

“I had four older brothers, and they’re all dead,” he says, “Three got so they couldn’t walk, and I said, ‘That’s not going to happen to me.’ So I keep my legs moving. I feel very good.”

Does he also think his regimen will help him live longer? “There’s no doubt about it.”

Sky-high yoga, with a dash of adrenaline

By VICKY HALLETT
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

This job can be such a pain. Literally. In the line of duty, I’ve been bruised, blistered, scratched, scraped and generally beaten up. But of all the times I’ve whined the morning after an assignment, I’ve never actually felt like I might not make it out of bed. That is, until I flew through the air with the greatest of ease.

Yep, Trapeze School New York set up a rig in Washington last month, and I was one of the first to get to test the 23-foot-high contraption. My class had a few veterans who tried to warn me. “Your calves are going to be mooing tomorrow,” promised 44-year-old Sarah Cuneo of Bethesda, Md., who picked up the sport at Club Med last year. Another woman urged me to buy Advil on my way home.

But I had other things to think about, namely the fact that I was hopping off a platform, hooking my legs over a swinging bar, letting go with my hands and grabbing onto another person’s arms as he flew in the opposite direction. The whole process was safe—I was hooked into a harness guided by skilled instructors, and there’s a springy net ready to catch you—but adrenaline totally took over. I didn’t feel a thing in midair other than an adrenaline rush. Besides, over the course of five turns, I was only on the darn thing for a little over 10 minutes. How much damage could I really do?

Which brings us back to my aching body, and my pre-breakfast snack of a couple of Advil.

“People wake up hating us,” says school manager Caryn “CJ” Jaffe. “That’s why when newcomers say they want to take three classes in a weekend, we tell them their bodies aren’t conditioned to do that.”

The height and the flight distract you entirely from the fact that you’re holding your body weight by your arms or knees, adding force to your swing by activating your core and using gravity to stretch in ways you never could on the ground. Beginners are hit with a double whammy: Not only is this a new activity that recruits muscles used to chilling out, but because you’re still learning the ropes, your timing is off. So you have to fight to hoist yourself around the bar instead of relying mostly on momentum.

“What it won’t give you is good cardio,” says Jaffe, who’s also a triathlon coach. But otherwise it’s a pretty complete total-body workout plan, which is why she insists her triathletes take to the air to build strength, develop flexibility and improve their mental focus. (One of the first rules of trapeze: Focus on the instructors and stay in the moment. Or you risk going splat on the net.)

If all this concentration, stretching and holding your own weight sounds similar to yoga, in a 23-foot-high sort of way, that’s because it is.

“The physical poses are the same,” points out Katja Brandis, owner of Studio Serenity in D.C., who’s organized several trips for her students to try out the rig. That knee drop I learned at trapeze school would be called camel pose, a standard back bend, on a mat. “But work in the air engages more muscles,” Brandis adds. Plus, there’s a feeling of liberation and accomplishment you get from taking to the skies.

That feeling may be coming to a gym near you. Reebok and Cirque du Soleil have just partnered up to transform several circus arts into doable and safe group fitness classes.

First up is “Jukari: Fit to Fly,” a new take on trapeze that’s being rolled out at health clubs in 14 cities around the globe. Unfortunately, Washington isn’t on the list, but it’s not too far to the Equinox near New York’s Union Square, where it debuted last month. Jukari, derived from the Sicilian word for “play,” relies on the FlySet, a strap that hangs from the ceiling and splits into two ends so you can slip in a padded bar for swinging. The idea dovetails with suspension training, which uses a similar strap (without a bar) that allows for strength exercises such as pull-ups at an angle. The farther your feet are walked out in front of you, the more of your weight you’re working with, so it’s customizable for anyone of any size and ability.

The Jukari class combines traditional strength moves with interval bursts of cardio that take advantage of the FlySet’s 360-degree rotation. Holding the bar, you run backward before leaping and taking a ride. With the bar over your head, you twist your torso to one side, then quickly snap your body in the opposite direction while tucking in your knees for a dizzying “carousel.”

“It gives you a goal to get back each week and fly higher,” explains Reebok global fitness instructor Sara Haley, who leads the Equinox classes.

And although a few visits won’t exactly prepare you for a career in the circus, Lyn Heward, Cirque du Soleil’s creative director and executive producer, says Jukari and future programs aim to give folks a taste of how performers train. (A very little taste. Contortionists, for instance, stretch for four hours a day.) “We’re not trying to create a room of trapeze artists. It’s just a more fun perspective on fitness,” she says.



Life & Style

Cronkite remembered as 'honorable' and 'an icon'

NEW YORK (AP)—The death of Walter Cronkite elicited tributes from colleagues, presidents past and present, world-famous astronauts and those who hoped in vain to fill his empty anchor chair, all honoring the avuncular face of TV journalism who became the “most trusted man in America.”

Cronkite died with his family by his side Friday night at his Manhattan home after a long illness, CBS vice president Linda Mason said. Marlene Adler, Cronkite's chief of staff, said Cronkite died of cerebrovascular disease. He was 92.

“It's hard to imagine a man for whom I had more admiration,” Mike Wallace of “60 Minutes” said on CNN. “... He was a superb reporter and honorable man.”

Cronkite was the face of the “CBS Evening News” from 1962 to 1981, when stories ranged from the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. to racial and anti-war riots, Watergate and the Iranian hostage crisis.

It was Cronkite who read the bulletins coming from Dallas when Kennedy was shot Nov. 22, 1963, interrupting a live CBS-TV broadcast of a soap opera.

“Walter was who I wanted to be when I grew up,” said CBS's “Face the Nation” host Bob Schieffer, 72, who began working at CBS News in 1969.

“He set a standard for all of us. He made television news what it became.”

Cronkite died just three days before the 40th anniversary of the moon landing, another earthshaking moment of history linked inexorably with his reporting.

“He had a passion for human space exploration, an enthusiasm that was contagious, and the trust of his audience. He will be missed,” astronaut Neil Armstrong said.

President Barack Obama issued a statement saying that Cronkite set the standard by which all other news anchors have been judged, echoing sentiments from former Presidents George W. Bush and Jimmy Carter.

“He invited us to believe in him, and he never let us down,” Obama said. “This country has lost an icon and a dear friend, and he will be truly missed.”

Cronkite was the broadcaster to whom the title “anchorman” was first applied; and his name was at one point synonymous with the role even outside the U.S.—in Sweden anchors were sometimes termed Kronkites; in Holland, they were Cronkites.

“Walter Cronkite was and always will be the gold standard,” said ABC News anchor Charles Gibson. “His objectivity, his evenhandedness, his news judgment are all great examples.”

CBS has scheduled a prime-time special, “That's the Way it Was: Remembering Walter Cronkite,” for 7 p.m. Sunday.

“He was a great broadcaster and a gentleman whose experience, honesty, professionalism and style defined the role of anchor and commentator,” CBS Corp. chief executive Leslie Moonves said in a statement.

A former wire service reporter and war correspondent, Cronkite valued accuracy, objectivity and understated

compassion. He expressed liberal views in more recent writings but said he had always aimed to be fair and professional in his judgments on the air.

But when Cronkite took sides, he helped shape the times. After the 1968 Tet offensive, he visited Vietnam and wrote and narrated a “speculative, personal” report advocating negotiations leading to

Egypt's peace treaty with Israel.

Off camera, his stamina and admittedly demanding ways brought him the nickname “Old Ironpants.” But to viewers, he was “Uncle Walter,” with his jowls and grainy baritone, his warm, direct expression and his trim mustache.

When he summed up the news each

break down with him.

Cronkite was the top newsmen during the peak era for the networks, when the nightly broadcasts grew to a half-hour and 24-hour cable and the Internet were still well in the future. In the fall of 1972, responding to reports in The Washington Post, Cronkite aired a two-part series on Watergate that helped

News, but he found little demand there for his services. He hosted the short-lived science magazine series “Walter Cronkite's Universe” and was retained by the network as a consultant, although, as he was known to state wistfully, he was never consulted.

He also sailed his beloved boat, the Wyntje, hosted or narrated specials on public and cable TV, and issued his columns and the best-selling “Walter Cronkite: A Reporter's Life.”

For 24 years he served as onsite host for New Year's Day telecasts by the Vienna Philharmonic, ending that cherished tradition only in 2009.

After the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Cronkite was asked to introduce the postponed Emmy awards show. He told the audience that in its coverage of the attack and its aftermath, “television, the great common denominator, has lifted our common vision as never before.”

Cronkite joined CBS in 1950, after a decade with United Press, during which he covered World War II and the Nuremberg trials, and a brief stint with a regional radio group.

At CBS he found a respected radio-news organization dipping its toe into TV. He was named anchor for CBS's coverage of the 1952 political conventions, the first year the presidential nominations got wide TV coverage. From there, he was assigned to such news-oriented programs as “You Are There” and “Twentieth Century.” (He also briefly hosted a morning show, accompanied by a puppet named Charlemagne the Lion.)

On April 16, 1962, he replaced Douglas Edwards as anchor of the network's “Evening News.”

“I never asked them why,” Cronkite recalled in a 2006 TV portrait. “I was so pleased to get the job, I didn't want to endanger it by suggesting that I didn't know why I had it.”

He was up against the NBC team of Chet Huntley and David Brinkley, which was solidly ahead in the ratings. Cronkite lacked Brinkley's wry wit and Huntley's rugged good looks, but he established himself as an anchorman to whom people could relate.

His rise to the top was interrupted just once: In 1964, disappointing ratings for the Republican National Convention led CBS boss William S. Paley to dump him as anchor of the Democratic gathering. Critics and viewers protested and he was never displaced again.

Cronkite won numerous Emmys and other awards for excellence in news coverage. In 1978, he and the evening news were the first anchorman and daily broadcast ever given a DuPont award.

Cronkite's salary reportedly reaching seven figures, he was both anchorman and star—interviewed by Playboy, ham enough to appear as himself on an episode of “The Mary Tyler Moore Show.” But he repeatedly condemned television practices that put entertainment values ahead of news judgment.

“Broadcast journalism is never going to substitute for print,” he said. “We cannot cover in depth in a half hour many of the stories required to get a good understanding of the world.”



This undated photo provided by CBS, shows CBS television newscaster Walter Cronkite. Famed CBS News anchor Walter Cronkite, known as the 'most trusted man in America' has died, Friday, July 17, 2009. He was 92.

Cronkite to be buried in Mo. after NYC funeral

NEW YORK (AP)—Walter Cronkite's final resting place will be next to his late wife in Missouri, where the two first met, his chief of staff said Saturday.

The 92-year-old former CBS anchorman died Friday at his Manhattan home of disease involving blood vessels in the brain, according to Marlene Adler, his longtime chief of staff.

A private funeral service was scheduled for Thursday at St. Bartholomew's Church. Adler said the Rev. William Tully will preside over the Episcopal service at the Park Avenue church, which the Cronkites attended for many years.

A memorial is to be held within the next month in Avery Fisher Hall at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Adler said.

“It will be a fitting tribute to Mr. Cronkite and the life he lived, the people he knew, the people

who loved him and the people he admired,” said Adler, who headed Cronkite's staff for the past 20 years.

The Committee to Protect Journalists, an organization that works to safeguard press freedoms worldwide, will post remembrances of Cronkite, an honorary co-chairman, on its blog.

“Whenever press freedom needed a champion, he was there,” CPJ board chairman Paul Steiger said. “We will miss him.”

Cronkite is to be cremated and his remains buried next to his wife, Betsy Cronkite, in the family plot at a cemetery in Kansas City.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations to the Walter and Betsy Cronkite Foundation through the AustinCommunityFoundation.org, which will distribute contributions to various charities the couple supported.

the withdrawal of American troops.

“We have been too often disappointed by the optimism of the American leaders, both in Vietnam and Washington, to have faith any longer in the silver linings they find in the darkest clouds,” he said, and concluded, “We are mired in stalemate.”

After the broadcast, President Lyndon B. Johnson reportedly said, “If I've lost Cronkite, I've lost middle America.”

He also helped broker the 1977 invitation that took Egyptian President Anwar Sadat to Jerusalem, the breakthrough to

evening by stating, “And THAT's the way it is,” millions agreed. His reputation survived accusations of bias by Richard Nixon's vice president, Spiro Agnew, and being labeled a “pinko” in the tirades of a fictional icon, Archie Bunker of CBS's “All in the Family.”

Polls in 1972 and 1974 pronounced Cronkite the “most trusted man in America.” Like fellow Midwesterner Johnny Carson, Cronkite seemed to embody the nation's mainstream. When he broke down as he announced Kennedy's death, removing his glasses and fighting back tears, the times seemed to

ensure national attention to the then-emerging scandal.

As many as 18 million households tuned in to Cronkite's top-rated program each evening. Twice that number watched his final show, on March 6, 1981, compared with fewer than 10 million in 2005 for the departure of Dan Rather.

Rather, who replaced Cronkite at the anchor desk, called Cronkite “a giant of the journalistic craft.”

Cronkite had stepped down at a vigorous 64 years old with the assurance that other duties awaited him at CBS

McCartney plays first concert ever at Citi Field

NEW YORK (AP)—Sir Paul McCartney knighted another New York Mets ballpark Friday night, playing the first concert ever at Citi Field.

“Long time since I’ve been here,” the former Beatle told the crowd, then paused to take it all in.

Citi Field is the successor to Shea

Stadium, where the Beatles played a historic concert in 1965 that’s regarded as the precursor to the stadium rock concert.

Patty Parker attended Friday night’s show and remembers the 1965 show well.

“I was three rows from the top. I was 10 years old,” she said. “He captured that same tune; I’m so blown away.”

Several times on Friday, McCartney alluded to that magical night 44 years ago. But he was also made it clear that it was less than perfect at times, saying: “The first time we played here, we couldn’t hear a thing because of all the girls screaming and the stadium sound system.”

Friday’s two-and-a-half-hour show went more smoothly, highlighted by fireworks on and off the stage for “Live and Let Die” near the show’s end.

McCartney played more than 30 songs, covering the Beatles, Wings and his solo catalog. When he introduced “I’m Down,” he said it was also played

at the Shea Stadium concert.

The crowd rocked most of the night, which was also filled with heartfelt dedications. The most poignant went to McCartney’s late wife before an emotional version of “My Love.”

“We’d like to do a song dedicated to Linda,” McCartney said. “She was a New York girl.”

He also played the Beatles classics “Hey Jude,” “Let It Be” and “Back in the USSR.”

When he performed “A Day in the Life,” McCartney swapped out John Lennon’s part at the end with a version of Lennon’s “Give Peace a Chance,” asking the crowd to join in.

For the encore, McCartney brought out Billy Joel for “I Saw Her Standing There.” Last year, McCartney joined Joel on stage for the last concert at Shea Stadium.



Musician Sir Paul McCartney performs at Citi Field Friday, July 17, 2009 in New York.

People do good deeds as Mandela birthday gift

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP)—Nelson Mandela’s fans celebrated the anti-apartheid icon’s 91st birthday Saturday by emulating him with good deeds, reading to the blind, distributing blankets to the homeless or refurbishing homes for AIDS orphans.

Mandela had called on people to spend time doing good Saturday, the first Mandela Day, which his charity foundations hope will be an annual event.

South Africans collected clothing for poor children, painted schools, planted trees near Mandela’s boyhood home in eastern South Africa, and renovated a building in downtown Johannesburg for people left homeless by a fire.

Mandela stepped down after serving one term as president—the first black South African to hold the post. Since 1999, he has devoted himself to such causes as fighting AIDS and poverty and championing the rights of children.

At a Mandela Day concert in New York on Saturday, Stevie Wonder, Alicia Keys, Aretha Franklin and others are to perform for the benefit of Mandela’s AIDS foundation.

Mandela Day organizers encouraged people around the world to devote at least a minute for each of the 67 years Mandela campaigned against apartheid to community service.

In Soweto, Thembekile “Prisca” Tshabalala invited community members to play with disabled children at her year-old Nkanyenzi Stimulation park, a cheery playground with seesaws and swings designed to accommodate children in wheelchairs.

More than 50 parents, volunteers and children were there, among them Khumo Bojanyane, who owns a construction company.

“We were motivated by the man himself,” said Bojanyane. “We’re so



In this photo supplied by The Nelson Mandela Foundation, former president Nelson Mandela blows out the candles on his birthday cake, alongside his wife Graca Machel, left, as he celebrates his 91st birthday in Johannesburg, Saturday July 18, 2009.

encouraged by his life, by his selflessness and sacrifices.”

A group of American tourists visiting a nearby museum in a home where Mandela once lived was moved to make a \$300 donation to the Nkanyenzi park.

“This is a very inspiring and moving, and happy birthday to Nelson Mandela,” said one of the group, Mark Rosenberg of New York.

The center is named after Tshabalala’s son Nkanyenzi, who was born with cerebral palsy and died at the age of 11.

“I think my son would be very proud to see all the people here today,” she said.

The regular volunteers at a Johannesburg animal shelter called CLAW sang “Happy Birthday” for Mandela before getting to work Saturday. Children from poor communities volunteer to care for and walk the dogs at CLAW’s shelter, and adults donate time to help the children with their school work.

“I think volunteering 67 minutes should be a start, but it should really be

more of a way of life,” said Cora Bailey, who runs CLAW. “That’s the only way we are going to go forward.”

Many of the projects celebrating Mandela Day in South Africa underlined how much work remains to be done in a country proud of ending apartheid peacefully, but plagued by poverty, stubborn inequalities, and AIDS—some 5.2 million South Africans were living with HIV last year—more than in any other country in the world.

President Jacob Zuma, the current leader of Mandela’s African National Congress party, paid a birthday visit to Mandela at his home in Johannesburg.

Zuma was joined by party leaders and Mandela’s family, including wife Graca Machel and former wife Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, as well as former Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda and former Tanzanian President Hassan Mwinyi, according to a statement from the ANC.

Ed White, Jimmy Stewart inducted in Aviation Hall

DAYTON, Ohio (AP)—Astronaut Edward White, who gave his life as part of man’s race to the moon, was inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame on Saturday along with the first female shuttle pilot and the late Hollywood actor Jimmy Stewart.

White, who made America’s first spacewalk in 1965 but was killed in a spacecraft fire two years later, was presented for enshrinement by the man who first set foot on the lunar surface.

“Ed had an acute dedication to his work,” Neil Armstrong said. “And he was committed to superiority in the conquest of space.”

Joining White as enshrinees in Saturday night’s ceremony, which hundreds of people attended, were Eileen Collins, the first woman to command an American space mission; Russell Meyer Jr., former head of the Cessna Aircraft Co., and Stewart, who was a bomber pilot during World War II before starring in such classic movies as “It’s a Wonderful Life” and Alfred Hitchcock’s “Rear Window.”

On Friday night, the hall presented its Spirit of Flight Award to the Apollo astronaut crews for their roles in the moon missions.

White, who grew up in Washington D.C., flew in the Air Force and was among the second group of astronauts selected. His first mission was as pilot for Gemini IV, the first long-duration flight for the Gemini program.

During White’s 21-minute spacewalk on the mission in 1965, he maneuvered on the end of a 25-foot tether using a handheld gas gun.

He died Jan. 27, 1967, when a flash fire swept through their Apollo 1 spacecraft during a pre-launch test at Cape Kennedy, Fla. Virgil “Gus” Grissom and Roger Chaffee also perished in the blaze.

Stewart, born in Indiana, Pa., was a private pilot who enlisted in the Army in 1941 at the age of 33. He sought posting to a flying unit and was assigned to the U.K.-based 445th Bomb Group, first as a squadron operations officer and then as its commander.

He flew 20 combat missions in B-24s, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross twice, the Croix de Guerre and the Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters.

Continuing his post-war service with the U.S. Air Force Reserve, he achieved the rank of brigadier

general in 1959, retiring from active duty in 1968. He remained an American airpower advocate until his death in 1997.

Jimmy Stewart Museum president Carson Greene said Stewart was “a good guy—devoted to family, country and craft.”

“If Jimmy were here, and I believe he is tonight,” Greene said, “he would be honored to be among these inductees.”

Collins, born in Elmira, N.Y., was the Air Force’s first female flight instructor and was chosen to be an astronaut in 1991.

In 1995, she became the first woman to pilot a space shuttle, and she became the first to command an American space mission when she served on a shuttle in 1999. She flew four shuttle missions, logging 872 hours before retiring in 2006.

She said she discovered the space program when she was in fourth grade.

“I fell in love with the astronauts, the Gemini astronauts,” she said. “I wanted to be just like them.”

Collins defended the space program, telling the people in attendance that if they ever hear someone say NASA is adrift or no longer inspirational, that’s not true.

“We have the most focused, passionate, motivated and skilled employees,” she said.

Meyer, who’s from Davenport, Iowa, was a fighter pilot in the Air Force and Marine Reserves from 1955-61. In 1974, he joined the Cessna Aircraft Co. as executive vice president and a year later was named chairman and CEO. He led the development of a program that created more than 50,000 new licensed pilots.

“For somebody who knew at the age of 4 that he wanted to be an aviator,” Meyer said, “joining the National Aviation Hall of Fame with all the pioneers that created this great industry is an absolute dream come true.”

The aviation hall was founded in 1962 in Dayton, hometown of the Wright brothers, and later was chartered by Congress. Wilbur and Orville Wright were the first inductees.

Other enshrinees include Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, who landed on the moon together on July 20, 1969, and William Boeing, the entrepreneur who established the company that became the Boeing Airplane Co.

Jackson's mother may challenge will executors

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson's mother asked for a judge's ruling Friday on whether she can challenge the authority of two men named in her son's will as executors of his estate without being disinherited.

The filing does not formally challenge the appointment of attorney John Branca and music executive John McClain as executors of Michael Jackson's estate.

But a favorable ruling could pave the way for 79-year-old Katherine Jackson to seek control of her son's estate, which has an estimated value of more than \$500 million.

A judge granted her temporary control over roughly 2,000 items taken from her son's Neverland Ranch and slated for auction, but her authority expired and was given to Branca and McClain. She had sought to control Jackson's estate, but that was before the singer's 2002 will was filed in Los Angeles.

It names Branca and McClain as Jackson's choice for co-executors of the will, and states his estate should be placed in a private trust.

Jackson's trust included a "no contest" clause that calls for anyone who challenges the will to be disinherited. Katherine Jackson, her three grandchildren and unnamed charities are beneficiaries of the estate.

The filing states that Katherine Jackson's attorneys continue to confer with attorneys for McClain and Branca and no final decisions have been made.

"Mrs. Jackson and her counsel have not yet decided whether to object to the appointment of the named executors or to suggest an alternate appointment," the filing states.

A phone message left after busi-



In this June 13, 2005 file photo, Michael Jackson and his mother, Katherine, leave Santa Barbara County Superior Court in Santa Maria, Calif., after he was acquitted in his child molestation case.

Jackie Chan praises kung fu of Will Smith's son

HONG KONG (AP)—Jackie Chan says "Kung Fu Kid" co-star Jaden Smith's dedication to martial arts puts his own son to shame.

The 11-year-old son of Hollywood stars Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith has been training under Chan's stunt co-ordinator for his role in the China Film Group-Columbia Pictures remake of the 1984 hit "The Karate Kid," which kicked off filming in Beijing on July 11.

In a diary entry on his official Web site, Chan said he was deeply impressed by the younger Smith's progress when he visited Los Angeles last month.

The veteran Hong Kong action star said Jaden Smith learned the Chinese phrases for different kung fu moves, responded to orders in Mandarin, and treated his teacher, Wu Gang, according to traditional Chinese custom.

"When he was thirsty, he gave the traditional hand gesture, putting one fist into the palm of the other, bowed and asked permission to drink some water," Chan said.

Chan said Smith even learned the drunken fighter routine he



In this Feb. 25, 2009 file photo, Hong Kong action star Jackie Chan smiles during a press conference in Hong Kong.

made famous in his 1978 film "Drunken Master."

"He put my son to shame! I provided my son with the best martial artists in the world, and he could not be persuaded to try it. In just two months, Jaden had learned so much. He is truly a talented boy," he said, adding he felt Smith was ready to perform his own stunts in "Kung Fu Kid."

Chan's son, Jaycee, is a singer and actor but has not followed in his father's footsteps as an action star.

Chan posted several photos with the diary entry showing him with Jaden Smith and his father.

He said he was skeptical at first of Jaden Smith's work ethic because he was born into a privileged family.

"Training in martial arts is hard work. It takes years to perfect even one punch or kick. Jaden's father is a famous celebrity, and Jaden probably knows he could get away without having to work very hard. If I couldn't get my own son to train in martial arts, how could anybody else succeed?" Chan said.

Chan said he suggested to Will Smith that he send his son to China for a few years of kung fu training, predicting "when he returns, his martial arts will be truly incredible."

Jaden Smith costarred with his father in the 2006 movie "The Pursuit of Happyness" and appeared in the 2008 Keanu Reeves sci-fi movie "The Day the Earth Stood Still."

ness hours Friday for Paul Gordon Hoffman, an attorney representing Branca and McClain, was not immediately returned.

The filing was first reported by RadarOnline.com.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Mitchell Beckloff will consider how to handle the filing at a hearing on Aug. 3. Linger- ing issues about Jackson's estate could be decided then, and the hearing will also focus on whether Katherine Jackson will be allowed to keep custody of her son's children, who range in ages from 7 to 12.

Guardianship hearing for Jackson's kids postponed

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Court officials say a guardianship hearing for Michael Jackson's children has been postponed until Aug. 3.

Katherine Jackson, in the meantime, will remain the temporary guardian of her son's three children.

Jackson designated his mother as the person he wanted to care for his children in a 2002 will. The three, who range in age from 7 to 12, are staying at the Jackson family home in the San Fernando Valley.

Jackson's ex-wife and mother of his two oldest children, Debbie Rowe, has not filed for custody of the children. She has agreed to previous delays in the guardianship case.

Katherine Jackson's attorney said last week that his client and Rowe were trying to reach an amicable settlement to the case.

50 Cent slashes price on Conn. mansion to \$10.9M

FARMINGTON, Conn. (AP)—The price of the Connecticut mega-mansion owned by rapper 50 Cent has dropped again—to \$10.9 million.

The 50,000-square-foot mansion is in the Hartford metropolitan area suburb Farmington. It was owned by boxer Mike Tyson.

It has 19 bedrooms and 37 bathrooms. It boasts a gym, billiards rooms, racquetball courts and a disco with stripper poles.

The New York City rapper bought it for \$4.1 million. He said it had "a 'Miami Vice' feel" and spent \$6 million on renovations and repairs.

The home was for sale for nearly two years before being pulled off the market in May. The initial \$18.5 million price dropped to \$14.5 million late last year.

50 Cent says he's tired of the two-hour commute to New York City and wants to downsize.

Woman is shocked to discover an old friend dumpster-diving

DEAR ABBY: I live in a major metropolitan area, so I am not unfamiliar with the sight of people who are down and out and living on the streets.

Recently, while walking to work, I came face-to-face with an old acquaintance. We had dated briefly more than 10 years ago, but parted amicably. Abby, he had a shopping cart containing his belongings and was going through a trash bin and yelling at passers-by! I didn't know what to do.

I pretended I didn't see him and continued on my way. I am barely scraping by, but probably could have offered him a few dollars. He knows where I live and work, and to be honest, I was frightened by his appearance. Now I feel guilty for not offering support. What would you have done?

GUILT-RIDDEN IN THE CITY

DEAR GUILT-RIDDEN: If I had been caught flat-footed (literally) as you were, I probably would have reacted the same way you did. But after having a short while to think about it, I would have realized that homeless individuals who yell at passers-by are usually mentally ill people who have gone off their meds. What your old friend needs far more than a handout is to get into a program that will help him get off the streets and medicated back to reality.

If you know any members of his family, contact them and tell them you have seen him. Many street people have lost touch with their loved ones, and their families do not know how to find them. If that's not possible, check your phone book for shelters or other programs that reach out to and provide help for mentally ill homeless people. You are lucky you live in a large city where resources are available.

DEAR ABBY: One of my relatives' driver's license was suspended, and she has little hope of getting it back. This person drives on a regular basis, as much if not more often than I do, usually with her children.

My problem is she offers rides to my children. I refuse her offers because I'm not comfortable with her driving them under these circumstances.

This has created tension because she doesn't view her driving as a problem. I have not explained the circumstances to my children because I don't think they'd understand the legal issues.

Could you please tell me what would happen to my children if they were with her and she was pulled over?

UNDER PRESSURE OUT EAST

DEAR UNDER PRESSURE: According to my local police department, if your children are in the car when your relative is stopped, the police will try to contact you by phone. If they're unable to locate you or the children's father, your children would then be taken to the police department. If you are still unreachable, child protective services would be called.

It is your responsibility as a mother to ensure your children's safety—and in this case that means you should NEVER allow them in a vehicle with a driver whose license has been suspended. As to their being too young to understand, if they don't understand the phrase "because you could be badly hurt," then "because I'm your mother and I SAID so!" will have to suffice.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

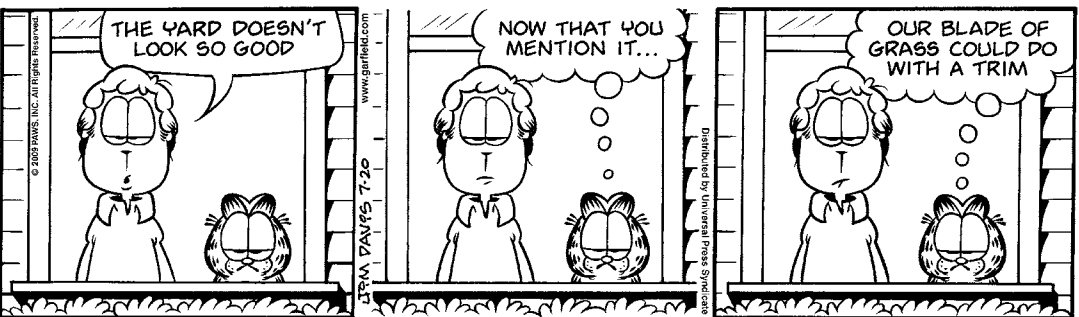
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



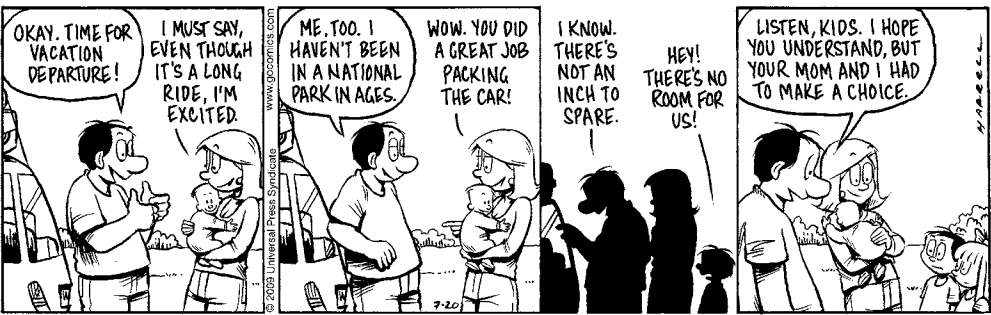
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



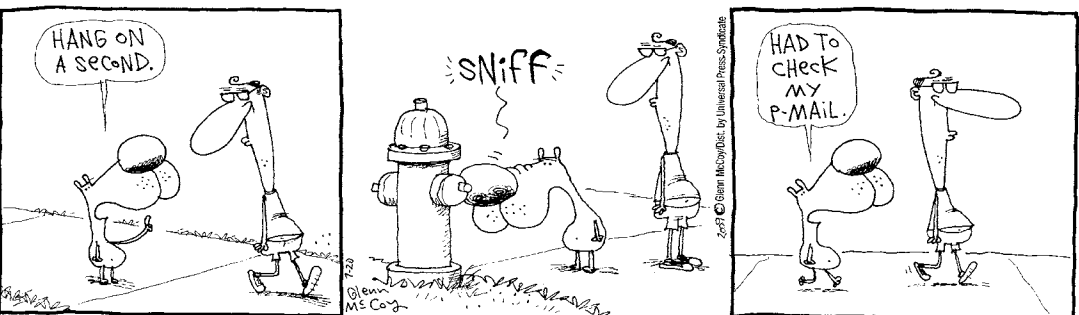
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

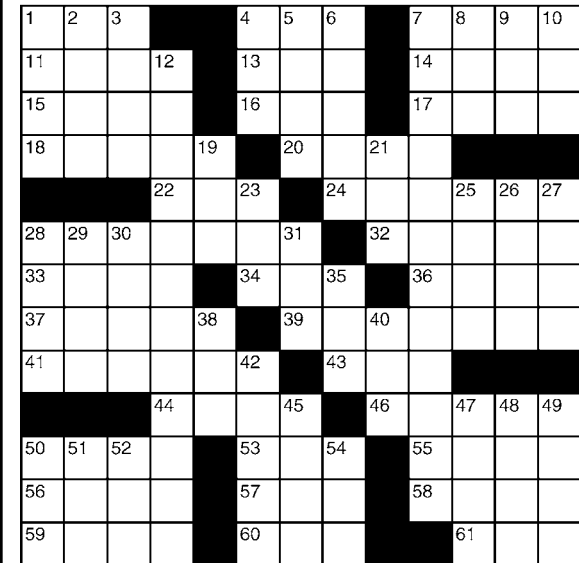
ACROSS 41 Shredded 43 Diamond 44 Squad 46 Carries on 50 Greek vowel 53 Dog's hand 55 Enjoying greatly 56 New Zealand bird 57 Time of your life? 58 iPod model 59 Carolina college 60 Cover 61 Pale

DOWN 1 United nations 2 Hawaiian island 3 Eastern potentate 4 Wager 5 Prosperous 6 Pry 7 2003 Civil War movie 8 Kimono closer 9 Gun the engine 10 Decorate Easter eggs 12 Malt-shop setup 19 Perch 21 Varnish ingredient 23 Unruly group 25 Knitting stitch 26 Jason's ship 27 Hasenpfeffer, e.g. 28 Oxidation result 29 Aware of 30 Stench 31 Cushion 35 Sailor 38 Calendar abbr. 40 Series of skirmishes 42 Pontifical 45 Creche trio 47 Rodents do it 48 Sicilian volcano 49 Any time now 50 Mamie's man 51 Lubricate 52 Pair 54 Marry

Solution time: 24 mins.

PHONE CLERK
FOULER AIRERS
JORDAN JARGON
ORR RIGOR ANA
REAP EEL FLOG
DRYAD TELLERS
BESIDES DICED
AXIS BAM LAZE
NEE LOYAL CPA
JUSTIN JERKIN
ONTIME OVULES
TAPED RITES

Saturday's answer 7-20



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Chris Cornell, 45; Carlos Santana, 62; Kim Carnes, 64; Diana Rigg, 71

Happy Birthday: Let your emotions be your driving force and you will be able to do things you couldn't bring yourself to do in the past. Don't let someone else's needs or plans stand in the way of what you must do for yourself and your loved ones in order to secure your position and your future. Your numbers are 3, 5, 13, 18, 27, 44, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your determined attitude and desire to push for what you want will be outstanding. Remember that modesty and generosity are necessary to maintaining your popularity. It will be a bit of a tightrope walk but certainly doable. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Stabilize your situation at home. Set up a good budget that allows the family to do things together. You can establish the type of family values that will bring the results you are looking for. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Help that can turn things around for you will be offered if you ask and are willing to try doing things a little differently. Don't be afraid to show your true feelings. Your values will convince others to take a chance on you. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You have to be the one to take action if you want to get ahead. Dreaming can be a relaxing and fun thing to do but, if you let your imagination run wild, you won't accomplish what needs to be done. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Do whatever it takes to improve your financial situation and, if that means you must stop being so generous, so be it. Call in old debts, pay off borrowed money and set up a budget. A residential move, adjusting your assets or sizing down will do wonders for future prospects. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You have to share your ideas and plans for the future with people who can actually assist you in reaching your goals. Talk can bring about some great ideas, along with support and perhaps even a partnership. Put travel plans into play. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A careless act or mention of something will be taken the wrong way and could hurt your chances of getting ahead. Someone with whom you shouldn't have shared your ideas will reveal secret information. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Connect with people who come from different backgrounds and you will get a much broader view of the possibilities that exist. Spending time with old friends may be fun but it won't open your mind and inspire you. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Think your plans through before taking action or you may lose financially. Rely on people you trust. Someone interesting will enter your life but give yourself ample time to get to know this person. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You have to stand your ground and refuse to be railroaded into something that doesn't

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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suit your needs. A wrong move will set you back a long way. Stick to what you know. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A chance meeting with someone will make you rethink your past, present and future. Before you jump into something you know little about, consider what you have and what you'd be giving up. In the long run, you are better off being reasonable and recognizing the cost. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Stop waffling and realize the opportunities that exist. Entertain the people you want to include in your plans and you will gain support. Someone you least expect will show jealousy -- cut this person free and move on. *****

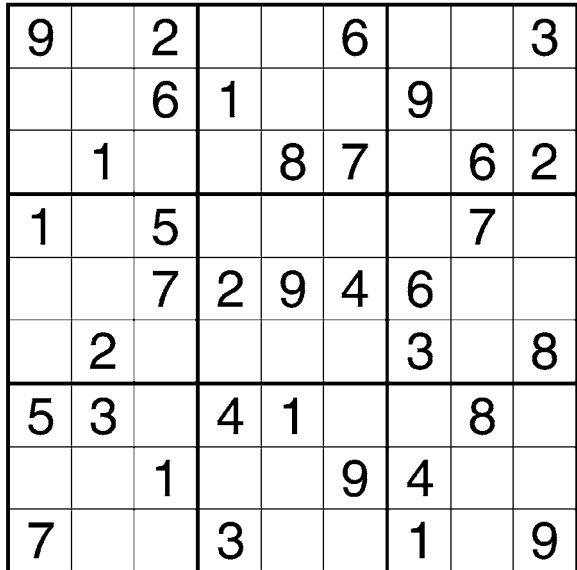
Birthday Baby: You are smart, swift to outmaneuver and creative enough to adapt. You are proud, determined and full of surprises.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

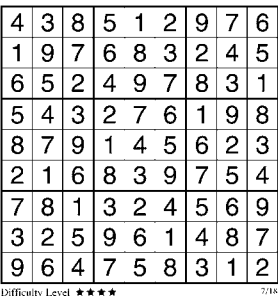


Difficulty Level ★ 7/20

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/18

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle -- horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CROCHET PATTERNS

Solution: 6 letters

S W E T K A R T I S A N P A E
A E O C O Y R E D I O R B M E
F Y I V A T K G T I I O B I R
S H E L E L E E H N R E E G U
T S P N I N M S T D L N A U T
H L U S I O A E E L E T D R C
C I R B A F D R I E E I E U U
T P S R O W S S D T Q N D M R
A P E K O O H L A U N K G I T
W E S H O M E M A K E R D T S
S R H T E S B L N V R N A G H
P S C N I O I O O H U O A Y A
O P T A U T T L O O W B B B W
O A A R Y S C A R V E S N A L
L C P P O N C H O S K O O B L

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Last Saturday's Answer: Kuwago
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Tom Watson keeps lead at British Open



TURNBERRY, Scotland (AP)—Tom Watson took three practice swings without a club in his hand, then looked toward the green and pictured the shot he needed to play.

Standing on the edge of the fairway, a marshal who had seen Watson work his magic at Turnberry for three decades whispered in his thick Scottish brogue, lost in time as he watched a 59-year-old champion leading the British Open.

“What are you going to do, Tom?” he said. “Cut a wee 7-iron in there? Throw an 8-iron into the air?”

Then, shaking his head with a smile, the marshal added, “Fantastic story, aye?”

Watson is turning this British Open into a fairy tale.

Even as he slipped out of the lead Saturday in the testing breeze off the Firth of Clyde, Watson didn't blink except to hold back the occasional tears. He is close enough to the claret jug to believe he can win again.

A 30-foot birdie putt on the 16th gave him a share of the lead.

Then came a hybrid 2-iron that took a bounce to the left and onto the green, setting up another birdie.

When he walked up the 18th fairway, his name atop the massive yellow leaderboard, Watson had a 1-over 71 for a one-shot lead, leaving him 18 holes away from becoming the oldest major champion in history.

Can this really happen?

Even Watson wasn't sure early in the week. Now, the doubts have morphed into determination.

“The first day here, ‘Yeah, let the old geezer have his day in the sun,’” Watson said. “The second day you said, ‘Well, that’s OK.’ And now today, you kind of perk up your ears and say, ‘This old geezer might have a chance to win the tournament.’ I don’t know what’s going to happen, but I do know one thing, I feel good about what I did today. I feel good about my game plan.”

“And who knows?” he said. “It might happen.”

He's even got the attention of Jack Nicklaus, whom Watson beat at Turnberry in the famous “Duel in the Sun” in 1977. Nicklaus, who rarely watches golf on television, saw most of the third round from his home in south Florida.

“I had some tears in my eyes,” Nicklaus said. “I just really hope he wins.”

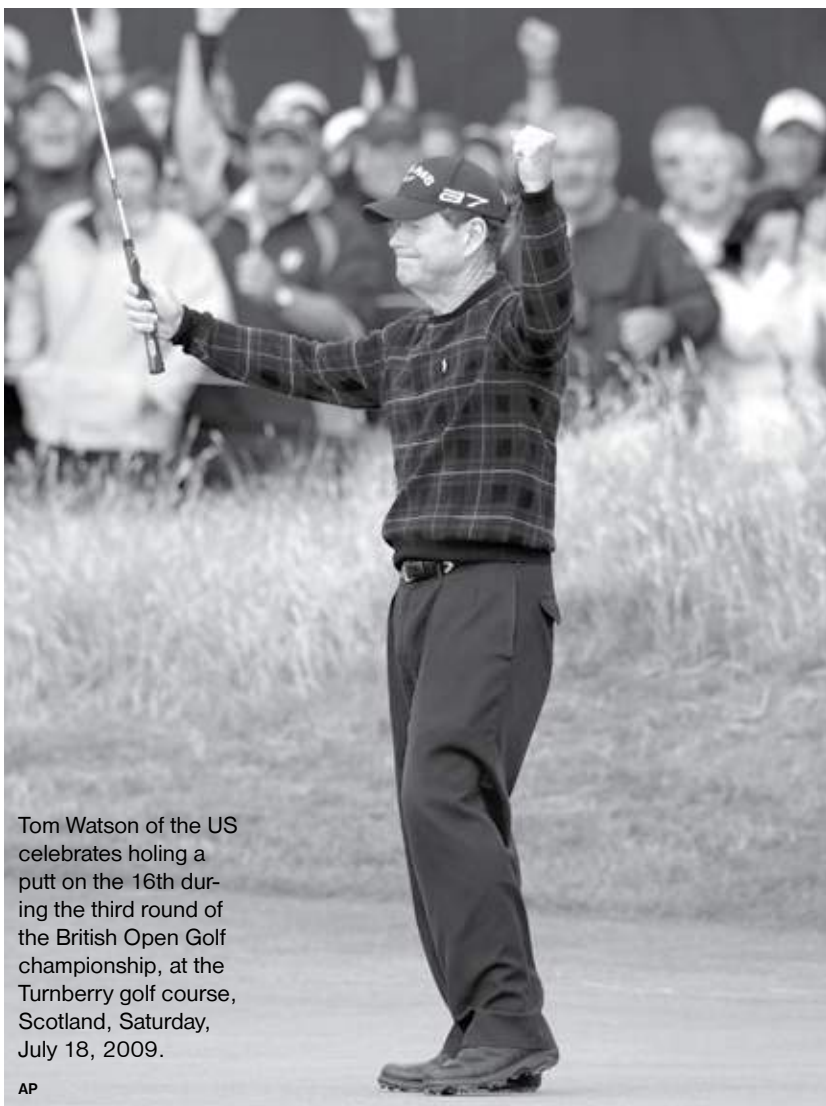
Watson wouldn't give details of his mysterious “game plan,” only that he has figured out how many bogeys he can afford to make, and how many birdies he'll need to make up for any mistakes.

“So far, it's going well,” he said.

The plan has put him at 4-under 206, one shot better than Mathew Goggin of Australia and Ross Fisher, who isn't even sure he will make it to the tee Sunday. His wife is expecting their first child, and Fisher said his priority is to be in England for the birth.

Fisher, who birdied two of his last three holes for a 70, was fifth at the U.S. Open last month, his best finish in a major. Imagine if he had been told that only a 59-year-old man would stand between him and the claret jug.

“Probably would have laughed,” Fisher said. “I mean, it's incredible.”



Tom Watson of the US celebrates holing a putt on the 16th during the third round of the British Open Golf championship, at the Turnberry golf course, Scotland, Saturday, July 18, 2009.

AP

Watson will be playing in the final group with Goggin, a 35-year-old who hasn't won in 10 years—and that was on the Nationwide Tour. Until Saturday, when his 69 was among only five scores under par, his greatest moment in the British Open came in 2003 at Royal St. George's when he was paired with Watson in the third round.

“He's such a great player and such a great champion, especially at the British Open,” Goggin said. “And it was also shocking just how good he was. I mean, it was ridiculous. I'm thinking, ‘He's getting on in years and not playing so much, and he's just smashing it around this golf course. I was really impressed.’”

A year ago, 53-year-old Greg Norman had a two-shot lead going into the final round at Royal Birkdale and couldn't hold on.

Watson has much more experience with eight majors, five of them on links courses.

He also has much more company.

Lee Westwood (70) joined Fisher as the only players at par or better all three rounds at Turnberry, escaping with a bogey on the final hole to finish at 2-under 208 with two-time U.S. Open champion Retief Goosen, who had a 71.

Another U.S. Open champion, Jim Furyk, made only two bogeys in his round of 70 and was at 1-under 209 with Stewart Cink (71).

Steve Marino is still in the mix, somehow.

Tied for the lead with Watson going into the third round, he dropped five shots on his first five holes, rallied to get back into contention, then lost a ball on the par-3 15th to make triple bogey and three-putted at No. 16 for double bogey. He birdied his last two holes of this roller-coaster round and shot 76 to fall five shots behind.

Marino was in the group at 1-over 211 that included Masters champion Angel Cabrera, while another shot

back was John Daly (72). Among those too far back to contend is Padraig Harrington, whose hopes of a third straight claret jug ended with a 76.

This is Watson's turf, the guy who put Turnberry on the map by winning that wondrous duel with Nicklaus. A victory truly would belong to the game's ages.

The oldest major champion was Julius Boros, who was 48 when he captured the 1968 PGA Championship. The oldest player to win a regular tour event, America or Europe, was Sam Snead at 52 in the 1965 Greater Greensboro Open.

The scope of what's at stake seems lost on Watson. He felt no nerves when he walked to the first tee to warm applause amid sunshine and a cool, coastal breeze. He avoided an early collapse by twice making par. From a pot bunker in the third fairway, he blasted out and hit 7-iron to 8 feet. From a green-side bunker on the fifth hole, he hit out to 15 feet and made that one, too.

The wind was the toughest of its kind, playing across the fairways, making it difficult to keep the ball in the short grass. Watson ran into trouble during a seven-hole stretch that began at No. 9, dropping three shots to fall out of the lead.

He managed to find two more birdies, the roars getting louder with each one.

Then came another long salute as he walked toward the 18th green. Watson blinked back tears, especially when he told caddie Neil Oxman, a friend from Philadelphia, that Bruce Edwards was surely watching. Edwards, Watson's longtime caddie, died of Lou Gehrig's disease five years ago.

Watson nearly thrilled the gallery again with a 60-foot putt that trickled to a stop a foot short of the hole. He waited for Marino to finish, tapped in, then turned and toasted the crowd.

Someone asked him later if he had pinched himself.

“I don't need to,” Watson said, flashing that gap-tooth smile. “I'm awake.”

Armstrong fumes as old chum misses Tour yellow



BESANCON, France (AP)—Lance Armstrong was unfazed about slipping to fourth place at the Tour de France. Instead, he was riled that his former lieutenant, George Hincapie, was deprived of the yellow jersey—allegedly by a rival U.S. team.

Hincapie, the only man to be a teammate of Armstrong on all seven of his Tour victories, came within 5 seconds of the race lead in the 14th stage won Saturday by Russia's Serguei Ivanov.

The ride was marred by the death of a 61-year-old woman spectator after she was hit by an escorting police motorcycle while she crossed the course route. Two other fans were injured.

Columbia rider Hincapie finished the 124-mile stage from Colmar to Besancon in an 8-man group just 16 seconds after the Russian, who was 5 minutes, 36 seconds ahead of the main race contenders.

Starting the stage as the highest-placed rider in the breakaway group, 5:25 behind leader Rinaldo Nocentini of Italy, Hincapie had a shot to swipe the leader's yellow shirt.

Instead, as Armstrong and his Astana team claimed, the U.S. squad Garmin-Slipstream pressed the pace in a way that helped the Italian hold a slim lead over Hincapie.

Armstrong, on his Twitter feed, took aim at Garmin-Slipstream, which competes with Columbia for dibs as the top American squad at the Tour this year.

“No one wanted George in yellow more than me,” he tweeted.

“Until 10km (6.2 miles) to go he was solidly in yellow until GARMIN put on the gas and made sure it didn't happen,” Armstrong wrote.

Hincapie, “deserves to be in yellow tonight. He deserves more than that,” he added.

French TV cameras showed Hincapie as he watched Nocentini's pack cross the finish line—and he harumphed in frustration that he had not garnered the yellow shirt.

“I don't know why you would do that with George at this stage of his career,” Columbia manager Bob Stapleton said.

“I mean that's a victory for everybody. That's something that would have gotten attention all over the U.S., that would have been good for the whole sport in America,” he said.

A Garmin spokeswoman didn't respond to calls from The Associated Press seeking comment after the stage.

For Armstrong, it was little matter that Hincapie's performance put him in second overall, bumping him and Astana teammate Alberto Contador each down a notch in the standings.

Contador, who too said he hoped Hincapie would take the race lead, dropped from second to third, but remains 6 seconds behind Nocentini. The Texan fell from third to fourth, 8 seconds back.

Sentiment aside, Hincapie in yellow would have meant that his powerful Columbia team would take on the

tough job of protecting the race lead in Sunday's 15th stage—the first ride in the Alps and a likely pivot point for the overall race standings. Astana, with its big stars, could let Columbia do the work of leading the pack.

Astana doesn't consider Hincapie a threat for overall Tour victory when the race ends next Sunday in Paris. He isn't expected to fare as well as Contador and Armstrong in the Alps or in a critical individual time trial in and near Annecy in Thursday's Stage 18.

“Garmin just wanted to prevent another American team from taking the yellow jersey. It's not right,” Astana manager Johan Bruyneel said. “It's not very sporting.”

“It's a story that I think will continue,” he said.

“Given the history we have with George, I would have liked him to take the jersey—but independent of that, I don't think it was a fair way of racing,” he added.

Columbia sustained a second blow Saturday: its star sprinter, Mark Cavendish of Britain, was fined and penalized by Tour officials for blocking his rival Thor Hushovd in a final sprint. The two men are competing for the green jersey awarded to the Tour's best sprinter.

Cavendish was demoted to last place in the stage, vastly denting his hopes of taking home the green jersey by depriving him of points he could have gained in the discipline. Hushovd has the green jersey.

For Ivanov, the day was much more fulfilling. He made a sign of the cross as he finished in 4 hours, 37 minutes, 46 seconds after escaping the breakaway group with 6.8 miles left.

The 34-year-old Russian national champion, who also won a Tour stage in 2001, splayed out on a curb after finishing so he could catch his breath.

“It's an amazing victory,” he said, explaining in English his retreat to the curb. “I didn't have any more air. I was just 2 minutes, breathing, breathing ... I was very tired.”

“I gave all my energy on the last 10 k's.”

Ivanov rose to 56th place overall, 27:47 behind Nocentini. The Russian had entered the day's stage in 62th place, 33:23 back.

The race moves into the Alps for Sunday's 15th stage, a 128.9-mile ride from Pontarlier, France, to the Swiss ski station of Verbier.

Strong climbers will be the riders to watch, including two-time Tour runner-up Cadel Evans of Australia, 2008 Tour champion Carlos Sastre of Spain, and Andy Schleck of Luxembourg.

Schleck is 1:49 behind Nocentini, who is not seen as a title threat, while Sastre is 2:52 back and Evans trails by 3:07. Astana senses it's now or never for them to make their move—or not at all.

“I think Andy Schleck and Cadel Evans and Sastre have to attack,” Bruyneel said. “If they don't attack tomorrow I don't know when they're going to attack.”

Yankees' Sabathia beats Tigers' Verlander in duel



NEWYORK(AP)—CC Sabathia beat All-Star Justin Verlander in a prime pitching matchup that lived up to its billing, and Alex Rodriguez's pop-fly homer sent the New York Yankees over the Detroit Tigers 2-1 in the American League on Saturday.

Sabathia (9-6) tossed seven shutout innings, working out of trouble most of the afternoon for his eighth victory in

Angels 11, Athletics 6

At Oakland, California, Erick Aybar drove in a career-high four runs, and Chone Figgins hit a leadoff homer while reaching base four times in Los Angeles' victory.

Every starter got a hit and six drove in a run for the AL West-leading Angels, who capitalized on four Oakland errors and survived a rare poor start by Jered Weaver for their fifth win in six

Texas its fourth straight loss.

Baker (8-7) retired the last nine batters he faced. He allowed six hits and struck out eight to win for the fourth time in five starts.

Pirates 2, Giants 0

At Pittsburgh, Charlie Morton allowed three hits over seven innings, and the San Francisco offense again struggled in rainy Pittsburgh during the Pirates' vic-

out in the third, Haren retired the next 15 batters in a row.

Brewers 5, Reds 1

At Cincinnati, Craig Counsell's solo homer started a four-run rally against Aaron Harang as the Milwaukee bullpen emerged from its struggles with three scoreless innings to protect a victory over Cincinnati.

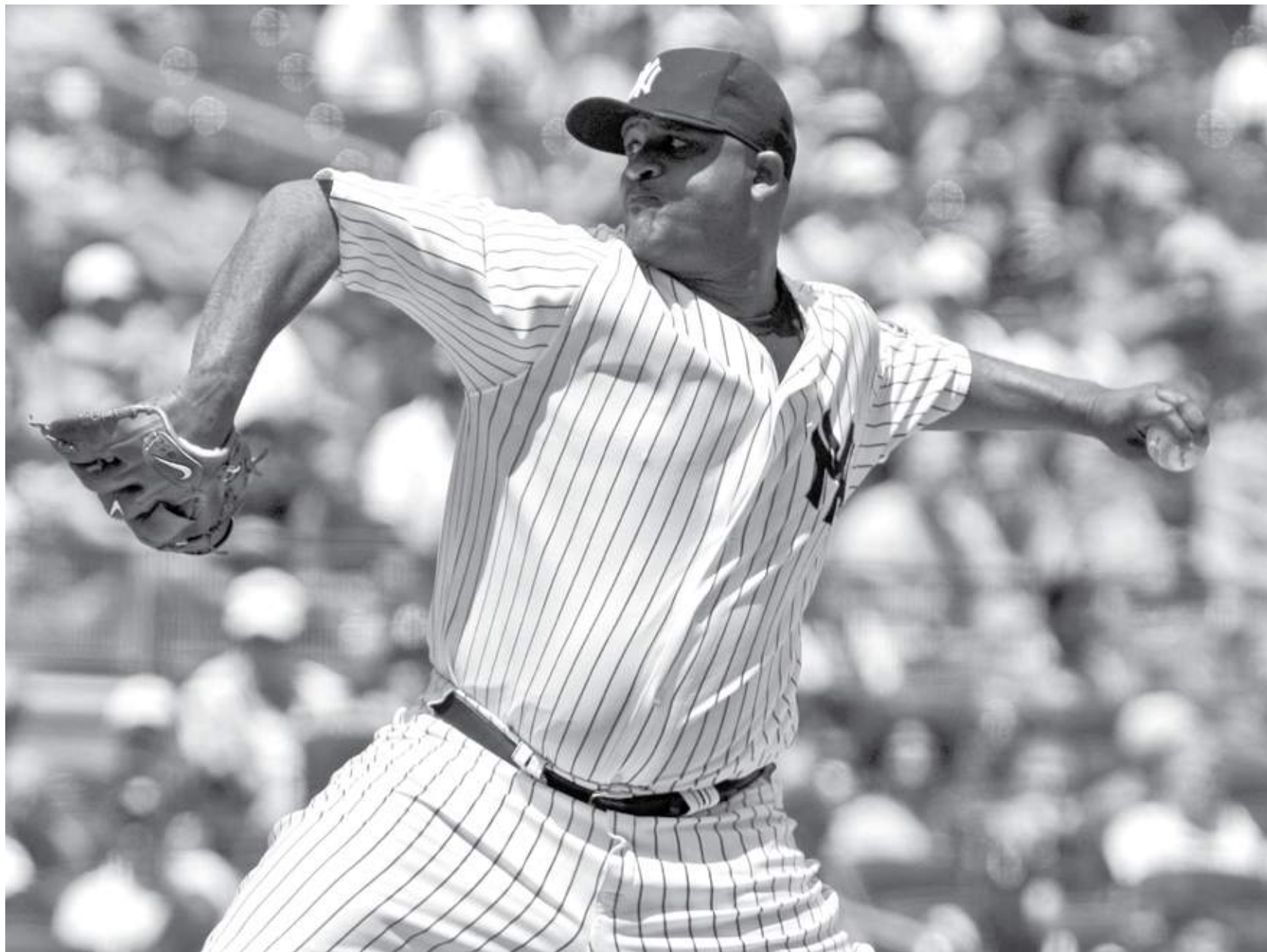
Counsell led off the fourth inning

the 15th homer—and first since June 7, a span of 121 at-bats—for Soriano, who missed Friday night's game with a swollen right pinkie finger.

Padres 3, Rockies 1

At San Diego, Chase Headley had a pinch-hit homer in the seventh inning, lifting the concerned San Diego to a win over Colorado an inning after Edgar Gonzalez was hit in the head with a pitch and carted off the field.

Gonzalez left the game after he was beamed by a fastball from Jason Hammel in the sixth inning. Gonzalez was hit near the left ear hole on his batting helmet and immediately fell to the ground clutching his head. After several minutes, he was helped to a cart and driven off the field.



New York Yankees starter CC Sabathia delivers a pitch during the second inning of a baseball game against the Detroit Tigers, Saturday, July 18, 2009, in New York. AP

11 decisions.

Rodriguez's 571st home run left him two behind Hall of Famer Harmon Killebrew for ninth place on the MLB career list. Melky Cabrera legged out an infield single to drive in the second run against Verlander (10-5), who took a three-hit shutout into the seventh inning.

Blue Jays 6, Red Sox 2

At Toronto, Adam Lind hit a two-run homer and Marc Rzepczynski earned his first MLB win as Toronto ended a three-game skid and snapped Boston's four-game winning streak.

Jose Bautista added a two-run double for Toronto.

White Sox 4, Orioles 3

At Chicago, Mark Buehrle allowed one run pitching into the eighth inning and Jermaine Dye hit a go-ahead two-run homer as Chicago pulled within 1 1/2 games of AL Central-leading Detroit—the closest they've been to the division lead since May 3.

Buehrle (10-3) improved to 14-1 with a 2.47 ERA in 20 home starts dating to the 2008 All-Star break. He allowed eight hits over 7 1-3 innings, reaching double-digit victories for the ninth straight year.

games. Weaver yielded eight hits and five runs, walking three in less than four innings.

Rays 4, Royals 2

At Kansas City, Missouri, Willy Aybar hit an RBI double for the go-ahead run in the eighth as Tampa Bay beat reeling Kansas City.

It was the second consecutive collapse of the Kansas City bullpen and wasted a good effort by Zack Greinke, who departed after seven innings with a 2-1 lead.

Mariners 3, Indians 1

At Cleveland, Jarrod Washburn pitched effectively into the seventh inning and Franklin Gutierrez homered for a second straight night as Seattle beat Cleveland.

Washburn (7-6) allowed a run in 6 2-3 innings and has given up two runs over his last 23 2-3 innings to win his last three starts. It has lowered his ERA from 3.36 to 2.87—fifth-best in the American League. David Aardsma pitched the ninth for his 21st save in 23 chances.

Twins 4, Rangers 1

At Arlington Texas, Scott Baker allowed a run in eight innings and Michael Cud-dyer homered as Minnesota handed

tory over the Giants.

Morton (2-2) struck out six while pitching his second scoreless outing in his past three starts. He only allowed one runner to advance past first base.

Mets 5, Braves 1

At Atlanta, Johan Santana threw seven scoreless innings to take some pressure off New York's struggling offense as the Mets beat Atlanta.

The Mets scored two runs in the sixth to snap a streak of 19 consecutive scoreless innings. Kenshin Kawakami's bases-loaded walk to Jeremy Reed forced in the first run. They led only 2-1 before scoring three runs in the ninth off Manny Acosta. Angel Pagan had three hits, including a run-scoring triple in the ninth.

Diamondbacks 4, Cardinals 2

At St. Louis, Dan Haren allowed one run over eight innings and Miguel Montero homered and had four hits as Arizona downed St. Louis.

Haren (10-5) allowed his former team just four hits while striking out eight, lowering his major league-leading ERA to 1.96. After giving up an RBI single to Albert Pujols with one

with a homer, the first hit off Harang (5-10). The right-hander had a fielding error that prolonged the four-run inning and extended one of the worst stretches of his career.

Dodgers 5, Astros 2

At Los Angeles, Clayton Kershaw allowed two hits over seven scoreless innings to win his fifth straight decision as Los Angeles celebrated manager Joe Torre's 69th birthday with a victory over Houston.

Kershaw (8-5) struck out five and lowered his ERA to 2.95. The 21-year-old left-hander is 5-0 with a minuscule 0.63 ERA over his last seven starts, and has not allowed a run in five of those outings. This was only the second time he lasted seven innings during that stretch.

Cubs 6, Nationals 5

At Washington, Alfonso Soriano hit a go-ahead, three-run homer in the sixth inning, connecting for the first time in almost six weeks, as Chicago held on for a victory over Washington.

Soriano sent a first-pitch slider from rookie left-hander Jordan Zimmermann over the wall in right-center, erasing a 4-2 Washington lead. It was

Yao Ming likely out next season



HOUSTON (AP)—The Houston Rockets thought they had become championship contenders last summer when they acquired Ron Artest to join Tracy McGrady and Yao Ming, a pair of perennial All Stars.

Less than a year later, the Rockets are rebuilding from scratch with no Artest and no idea when McGrady or Yao will play again.

The final blow came Friday, when Yao announced he would have surgery next week on his broken left foot, a decision that will likely keep him out all of next season. The team said there is no timetable set for the return of the 7-foot-6 Yao, a seven-time All Star, but that he is "expected to be available for the team's training camp in 2010."

McGrady, also a seven-time All Star, could be sidelined until next February as he recovers from risky microfracture surgery on his left knee.

Artest? He said at the end of last season that he wanted to stay in Houston—but only if he felt the Rockets had a legitimate chance to win the NBA title. He's now getting ready to play with Kobe Bryant and the NBA champion Lakers after signing a multiyear deal a few days after the start of the free agency negotiating period.

The Rockets knew some of this was coming, asking the NBA for a disabled player exception several weeks before free agency began. The NBA granted the Rockets' request, an acknowledgment that the league doubted Yao would play next season. The team promptly used the money to land forward Trevor Ariza from the Lakers.

But that's small solace to Rockets fan and general manager Daryl Morey, who called the 28-year-old Yao the franchise's "cornerstone" just a month ago.

Morey said that he isn't conceding next season, but acknowledges the Rockets are probably have little choice now but to build for the more distant future.

Beermen end 4-year title drought, drub Gins

PBA **MANILA, Philip-pines**—In the end, talent and pride prevailed over character and attitude.

San Miguel Beer outplayed Barangay Ginebra in the grandest stage of a title playoff—Game Seven—fashioning out a convincing 90-79 victory to bag the Motolite PBA Fiesta Conference crown before a roaring crowd of over 20,000 at the Araneta Coliseum.

“Ginebra will always be a never-say-die team. They have that great character and attitude. But when we’re tested after the Game Five loss, we showed our talent as well as our pride as a champion team,” said San Miguel coach Siot Tanquingcen moments after the championship.

The Beermen emerged triumphant after a fortnight of fierce battle, dethroning the Kings as Fiesta Cup champs and, in the process, ending their chase for a first title since their 2004-05 Fiesta Conference conquest.

Gabe Freeman, the tournament Best Import awardee, proved too hot to handle in this eventful evening, bulldozing his way to game-highs of 29 points and 18 rebounds.

Then there were Jonas Villanueva, Marc Pingris, Danny Ildefonso, Mike Cortez and Mick Pennisi also rising to the occasion as the Beermen frustrated the Kings and their throngs, thus, notching the franchise’s 18th championship overall.

Tanquingcen kept his mastery of friend and mentor Jong Uichico in playoff battles in earning a third personal championship. The youthful SMB tactician won his first two titles with Ginebra.

“Nagkataon lang yon,” said Tanquingcen, downplaying his fourth win in as many playoff tiffs with Uichico.

“It took us quite sometime to close it out and I would like to apologize, knowing the high expectations of the manage-

ment and the fans on us,” Tanquingcen also said. “I had to admit we really have a powerhouse team. But when tested, it took us talent and pride to get the championship.”

The Beermen made it a come-from-behind victory, clinching it with victories in Games Six and Seven.

Villanueva, the season’s Most Improved Player, came through with 15 points, eight rebounds and seven assists in Game Seven and went home with the FERN-C Finals MVP trophy. He wound up with averages of 11 points, 3.9 rebounds and 3.6 assists in the series.

San Miguel 90 — Freeman 29, Villanueva 15, Pingris 12, Ildefonso 10, Cortez 9, Pennisi 8, Washington 5, Hontiveros 2, Racela 0, Pena 0.

Ginebra 79 — Helterbrand 25, Menk 12, Tubid 10, Reavis 9, Noel 8, Lanete 6, Wilson 5, Baguio 4, Mamaril 0, Salvacion 0. (www.pba.com.ph)

STA. REMEDIO

From Page 28

not enough to bump off *Sta. Remedio* in first place of the billfish category.

Day 1 was slow for most of the participants, as less than 20 of the 75 participating boats returned to the dock of the Smiling Cove Marina with their catch.

James Benavente of *MV Dolores* caught only a 6.45-lb skipjack tuna after spending almost the whole day in the water.

“There are a lot of fish, big and small. We even spotted a dolphin. But they were not just going after the bait,” Benavente said.

“It was a tough day. The water was so calm and flat and was not that ideal for fishing,” said Anthony Camacho, who hoped for a few waves in Day 1, but found none. “After five hours, we got lucky and had this marlin.”

Anthony Camacho declined to disclose where exactly they caught the biggest catch of the day, but said they found it in the “319-reef.”

“We hooked it around 11am and it took us until 3pm to bring it to the boat. It was really a struggle, as it was really a huge one,” Anthony Camacho said.

Sta. Remedio and its anglers were among the first to return to the dock last Saturday, as

they reached the weighing station past 4pm. When the buzzer sounded at 6pm, ending Day 1, only 16 returned with a catch.

Senor Dung had two marlins, weighing 99.73 lbs. and 78.9 lbs. each. *CM-622-PU* landed the heaviest wahoo in Day 1, as its catch tipped the scales at 29.75 lbs. *CM-622-PU* also caught a skipjack tuna, but it weighted only 6.3 lbs.

Sienna Jade also had a skipjack (6.2 lbs.), along with *San Juan II* (7.9 lbs.), *Amanda G.* (5.05 lbs.), and *Here Fishee Fishee* (3.65 lb.).

I Familia got the heaviest yellow fin tuna in Day 1 with its catch weighing 9.0 lbs. *Split De-*

MBI

From Page 28

surviving Shirley’s in the first round of the playoffs and then pulling off an upset over G4S.

Advance also stunned second-ranked Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in the other semis game, 87-80, to arrange an all-underdog title series.

In Game 1 of the championship affair, MBI showed toughness in the closing minutes of the fourth quarter to pull off a three-point win. Free throws from R.J. Nonato and Ryan Cabrera saved MBI from collapsing after leading by as much as 18 in the second period, 38-20.

Just when most of spectators thought MBI will walk away with an easy win, Advance made the then one-sided Game 1 a down-to-the-wire finish after working its way back into the game at the start of the second half.

Mike Olaitiman, Rocyl Ritual, and Rodel Apostol teamed up in the third period and cut the lead to single digit, entering the final canto, 47-56. The X-Ter-

minators inched in closer in the fourth period, cutting the lead to as low as three points, midway in the fourth before MBI regained its form and brought the lead back to nine, 69-60, with 2:02 left on the clock.

A short 7-0 run on Apostol’s back-to-back baskets, Juhani Daprosa’s jumper, and Ritual’s split moved Advance within two, 69-71, with 1:17 remaining in the game.

Nonato was fouled on the other end and made both charities to temporarily stop the bleeding for MBI and increase the lead to four, 71-69, with 59 seconds left in the payoff period. Cabrera added a free throw after an Advance botched play to make it a 71-67 lead, but the X-Terminators answered with two straight baskets on Ritual’s left banked shot and Apostol’s layup off a steal from the backcourt.

With 17 seconds left in the game, Apostol intentionally fouled Cabrera, who split his charities, anew, giving Advance a chance to tie or even steal the game.

However, Art Trajano, who had numerous blocks, made a big defensive play, as he partially blocked Ritual’s fallaway jumper. The ball went out of the baseline, but Advance kept the leather with six seconds left on the clock.

Trajano failed to record back-to-back shotblocks, but his towering presence and long arms were enough to intimidate and

prevent Olaitiman from making a left baseline jumper. Had Olaitiman canned the basket, the game could have gone into overtime. After Olaitiman missed the jumper, Nonato collared the rebound and was fouled, as time expired. He split his charities to peg the final score.

Nonato paced MBI with 22 points, while Barbo and Trajano chipped in 11 and 10 markers, respectively.

Olaitiman and Apostol top-scored for Advance, drilling 23 markers apiece.

In the battle for third place, G4S capitalized on Fiesta’s depleted crew to cruise to an 81-64 victory.

Third Place

G4S 81 — Guiab 25, Banatasa 15, Soriano 12, Caras 9, Urrea 8, Larioza 4, Aquino 4, Chavez 2, Sison 2.

Fiesta 64 — Esdreton 15, De La Torre 13, Maliwanag 12, Licop 12, Rodriguez 6, Borlongan, Rabago 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-16, 43-33, 63-46, 81-64.

Championship Game

MBI 74 —Nonato 22, Barbo 11, Trajano 10, Cabrera 8, Achas 8, Alvarez 7, Sese 5, Cordero 2, Garcia 1.

Advance 71 — Olaitiman 23, Apostol 23, Ritual 12, Daprosa 10, Luna 1.

Scoring by quarters: 20-11, 39-28, 56-47, 74-71.

HEO

From Page 28

namement top seed and eventual winner Barret Franks of New Zealand, 3-6, 6-7 (6-8).

The Air Pacific event ran from June 30 to July 5 and Heo stayed for a few days in Fiji to train at the Pacific Oceania Regional Training Centre before going to Australia.

Heo got a break in his first game in the tournament in Land Down Under, as he was paired against an unseeded foe in Michael Georgiev of the host country.

“I had an enormous headache and had really a hard time focusing. I couldn’t hit well, but all I did was hit good serves and keep everything in. I won in straight sets, 6-1 6-2. I was

lucky to have him for the first round. I think he made many mistakes and he was quite slow on court. I went home early to rest,” Heo said.

In the second round, luck was no longer on Heo’s side, as he was pitted against Franks, who was ranked third in the tournament and was coming off a title conquest in Fiji.

“I still had a headache and I wasn’t feeling too strong. I felt weak in the legs. I fought hard in the opening set and had at least seven aces in the first set. I was up 40-0 at 4-4, but lost focus and lost it. I lost the set 6-4. In the second set, my legs just couldn’t hold up and it was hard for me to really push myself. I lost the second set quickly, 6-0,” Heo said.

“I felt like my forehand

wasn’t going too good because I changed my forehand a little bit while I was in New Caledonia to create more spin. I didn’t have too much confidence in my forehand. He [Franks] went for his shots and many times I was on defense, which isn’t my game. He didn’t give me much chances to go on offense,” he added.

Heo also played in the doubles competition of the same tournament, but his partner, Kamono Kyohhei, was also tired and injured.

“My partner is a great player and is ranked No. 390 in the world. However, he had a wrist injury and he could not even hit a ball. We were ready to forfeit the first round, but he said he’ll play and take painkillers, and if we win, we will go for default in the next round. We lost to Jimmy

Dougherty and Price Thomas, who reached the semifinals,” the 17-year-old CNMI bet said.

“I was disappointed I did not get ranking points in the singles and also lost in the doubles, but I still have several chances,” said Heo, who is returning to New Caledonia for another tournament.

Before the tournaments in Fiji and Australia, Heo went straight to Noumea when he left Saipan early last month. He joined the Open Junior BNP Paribas de Nouvelle Caledonia 2009 and made it to the Round of 16 in the singles competition.

Meanwhile, Heo thanked Tan Holdings, EZ Outlet, and the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association for supporting his off-island competitions this summer.

taleza (2:35:51).

In the fun run, the Top 3 finishers were Matt Mancao (26:10), Nate Mateo (28:34), and Fred Camacho (30:37).

Mieko Carey took the short course and topped the women’s fun run with her time of 29:48. Melody Matson was second in 39:03 and Kathy Pagapular finished third in 39:38. (*Roselyn B. Monroyo*)

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES		
MLB STANDINGS		
AMERICAN LEAGUE		
East Division		
	W	L Pct GB
Boston	55	35 .611 —
New York	53	37 .589 2
Tampa Bay	50	41 .549 5 1/2
Toronto	45	47 .489 11
Baltimore	40	50 .444 15
Central Division		
Detroit	48	41 .539 —
Chicago	47	43 .522 1 1/2
Minnesota	47	44 .516 2
Kansas City	37	53 .411 11 1/2
Cleveland	36	56 .391 13 1/2
West Division		
Los Angeles	51	38 .573 —
Texas	48	41 .539 3
Seattle	48	43 .527 4
Oakland	38	51 .427 13
NATIONAL LEAGUE		
East Division		
Philadelphia	50	38 .568 —
Florida	46	46 .500 6
Atlanta	45	46 .495 6 1/2
New York	43	47 .478 8
Washington	26	64 .289 25
Central Division		
St. Louis	50	43 .538 —
Chicago	46	43 .517 2
Milwaukee	47	44 .516 2
Houston	46	45 .505 3
Cincinnati	43	47 .478 5 1/2
Pittsburgh	40	50 .444 8 1/2
West Division		
Los Angeles	57	34 .626 —
San Francisco	49	41 .544 7 1/2
Colorado	49	42 .538 8
Arizona	39	52 .429 18
San Diego	37	54 .407 20
Yesterday's Games		
N.Y. Mets 5, Atlanta 1		
Chicago Cubs 6, Washington 5		
Pittsburgh 2, San Francisco 0		
Milwaukee 5, Cincinnati 1		
Philadelphia at Florida, ppd., rain		
Arizona 4, St. Louis 2		
San Diego 3, Colorado 1		
L.A. Dodgers 5, Houston 2		
N.Y. Yankees 2, Detroit 1		
Toronto 6, Boston 2		
Chicago White Sox 4, Baltimore 3		
L.A. Angels 11, Oakland 6		
Seattle 3, Cleveland 1		
Tampa Bay 4, Kansas City 2		
Minnesota 4, Texas 1		
BRITISH OPEN SCORES		
TURNBERRY, Scotland (AP) — Scores Saturday from the British Open, the \$6.8 million major at 7,204-yard, par-70 Ailsa Course at Turnberry (a-amateur):		
THIRD ROUND		
Tom Watson	65-70-71—206	
By The Associated Press		
Mathew Goggins	66-72-69—207	
Ross Fisher	69-68-70—207	
Lee Westwood	68-70-70—208	
Retief Goosen	67-70-71—208	
Jim Furyk	67-72-70—209	
Stewart Cink	66-72-71—209	
Bryce Molder	70-73-67—210	
Thongchai Jaiddee	69-72-69—210	
Richard S. Johnson	70-72-69—211	
Boo Weekley	67-72-72—211	
Angel Cabrera	69-70-72—211	
Steve Marino	67-68-76—211	
Thomas Aiken	71-72-69—212	
Paul McGinley	71-71-70—212	
Graeme McDowell	68-73-71—212	
Henrik Stenson	71-70-71—212	
Francesco Molinari	71-70-71—212	
Justin Rose	69-72-71—212	
Chris Wood	70-70-72—212	
John Daly	68-72-72—212	
Branden Grace	67-72-73—212	
Camilo Villegas	66-73-73—212	
James Kingston	67-71-74—212	
Vijay Singh	67-70-75—212	
Kenichi Kuboya	65-72-75—212	
Luke Donald	71-72-70—213	
Steve Stricker	66-77-70—213	
Oliver Wilson	72-70-71—213	
David Howell	68-73-72—213	
Peter Hanson	70-71-72—213	
a-Matteo Manassero	71-70-72—213	
Ernie Els	69-72-72—213	
Justin Leonard	70-70-73—213	
Nick Dougherty	70-70-73—213	
Martin Kaymer	69-70-74—213	
J.B. Holmes	68-70-75—213	
Miguel Angel Jimenez	64-73-76—213	
Mark Calcavecchia	67-69-77—213	
Nick Watney	71-72-71—214	
G.Fernandez-Castano	69-72-73—214	
Soren Hansen	68-72-74—214	
Thomas Levett	71-73-71—215	
Soren Kjeldsen	68-76-71—215	
Billy Mayfair	69-73-73—215	
Kevin Sutherland	69-73-73—215	
Davis Love III	69-73-73—215	
Andres Romero	68-74-73—215	
Anthony Wall	68-72-75—215	
Richard Sterne	67-73-75—215	
Sergio Garcia	70-69-76—215	
Jeff Overton	70-60-76—215	
Johan Edfors	71-73-72—216	
Paul Broadhurst	70-72-74—216	
Tom Lehman	68-74-74—216	
Robert Allenby	70-74-73—217	
Rory McIlroy	69-74-74—217	
David Drysdale	69-73-75—217	
Graeme Storm	72-72-74—218	
Paul Casey	68-76-74—218	
Sean O'Hair	68-75-75—218	
Kenny Perry	71-72-75—218	
Zach Johnson	70-71-77—218	
Stuart Appleby	71-72-76—219	
Pdraig Harrington	69-74-76—219	
Fredrik Jacobson	70-72-77—219	
Fredrik Andersson Hed	71-70-78—219	
Paul Lawrie	71-73-76—220	
Darren Clarke	71-71-78—220	
Mark O'Meara	67-77-77—221	
Mark Goydos	72-72-77—221	
Ryuji Imada	74-69-79—222	
Daniel Gaunt	76-67-79—222	

The Week in Sports

Underdogs deliver week's best games

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The underdogs in a bowling tournament and basketball league made what could have been a boring week—marred by rain—an exciting one with their nerve-wracking upset wins over highly-regarded foes.

Veteran bowler Percy Omechelang started the week's giant-killing performance, as he defeated Simon Manacop in the finals of the 2009 Philippine Bowling Association-Budweiser Bowler of the Year Tournament at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Omechelang, who faltered in his three previous attempts at the PBA plum, was seeded second in the step-ladder finals and had to win twice in the championship match to pull off an upset over the No. 1 seed Manacop.

A 174-164 win in Game 1 helped Omechelang force Game 2. Omechelang capped his stunning performance in the finals by scoring 195 pinsfalls in the deciding game against Manacop's 164 to secure the 2009 PBA Bowler of the Year award.

Five of the 24 keggers who qualified for the nine-game roll-off made it to the stepladder finals. Joining Manacop and Omechelang were Raymond Zapanta, 2006 and 2007 PBA Bowler of the Year Robert Talavera, and Lito Teodoro.

The 2009 Inaugural Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League was down to four teams at the start of the week and then two remained standing on Wednesday night after pulling off surprised victories against their higher-ranked opponents.

Micronesian Brokers Inc. eked out a 66-59 win over pennant champion G4S to book the first finals ticket, while Ad-

vance also stunned Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, 87-80, to nail the last championship berth.

MBI was seeded only fourth in the playoffs, while Advance finished third in the regular season and lost four of its last five games in the double-round elimination. Fiesta was ranked second going into the playoffs with its 8-4 record. G4S had a similar 8-4 mark, but won the pennant and the No. 1 seeding with its higher points against Fiesta in the quotient system.

Game 1 of the best-of-three title series between MBI and Advance was played last Friday with the former prevailing, 74-71, to move a win away from clinching the title.

Still in basketball, FIBA Oceania released its rankings after the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament was completed on Saipan last month.

The CNMI moved two notches

higher in the combined rankings, while Australia strengthened its hold of the No. 1 spot, following a sweep of the FIBA Oceania caging.

After playing four games each in the men's and women's divisions, the CNMI moved up to the No. 11 spot in the current combined rankings. The Commonwealth, which in the December 2008 rankings garnered 49.75 points for the No. 13 spot, now has 71.75 ranking points, finishing ahead of eight other FIBA Oceania-member nations.

Australia, which in the December 2008 rankings earned 2,525 ranking points, now has 2,519.75. New Zealand is ranked second overall with its combined 1,370, while Fiji is in third place with a total of 478.5 points. Completing the Top 10 are New Caledonia (392.25), Guam (353.5), Samoa (183), Papua New Guinea (180.75), Tahiti (118.25), Palau (104), and American

Samoa (84.5).

CNMI junior tennis player Ji Hoon Heo also improved his rankings after posting wins in three tournaments this summer.

Heo, who was ranked No. 1,255 before leaving Saipan early last month, is now at the No. 978 spot (as of July 13, 2009) after competing in New Caledonia, Fiji, and Australia.

Australia will host 12 more athletes and several others from the Oceania region next month through the staging of the Oceania Regional Championships 2009.

The CNMI athletes who will be going to the Land Down Under for the regional meet are Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel, Jacque Wonenberg, Yvonne and Yvette Bennett, Clayton Kenty, Jesus Iguel, Douglas Dillay, Lia Rangamar, Trevor Ogumoro, Matt Mancao, Tyrone Omar, and Ryan Ichihara.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MBI's Jeff Garcia drives against two Advance defenders during Game 1 of their title series in the Shirley's caging last Friday at the JP Center Basketball Court.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI's Dan Barcinas is trapped in the baseline by Australia's Bradley Simpson, right, and Cameron Bairstow (15), partly hidden, during their game in the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last month.



Left, Advance's Rodel Apostol, center, is fouled by MBI's Art Trajano during Game 1 of their title series in the Shirley's caging last Friday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
2009 PBA-Budweiser Bowler of the Year Percy Omechelang shows his prizes.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Several members of the CNMI track team that will compete in Australia next month train at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Top 5 finishers in the PBA-Budweiser Bowler of the Year Tournament, from left, fifth placer Robert Talavera, fourth placer Lito Teodoro, champion Percy Omechelang, runner-up Simon Manacop, and third placer Raymond Zapanta.



Underdogs deliver week's best games

The underdogs in a bowling tournament and basketball league made what could have been a boring week—marred by rain—an exciting one with their nerve-wracking upset wins over highly-regarded foes. **27**

Saipan Tribune Sports

Tom Watson keeps lead at British Open

Tom Watson took three practice swings without a club in his hand, then looked toward the green and pictured the shot he needed to play. **24**



28 MONDAY, JULY 20, 2009

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

MBI inches closer to title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Micronesia Brokers, Inc. is one chapter away from a fairytale ending. MBI hung on against Advance's second-half rally to eke out a thrilling 74-71 win in Game 1 of their title series in the 2009 Inaugural Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League last Friday at the JP Center Basketball Court to move closer to clinching the championship.



Game 2 of the best-of-three championship showdown will be played tonight and another MBI win will give the Kitz Barja-coached squad a Cinderella finish in the six-team league.

MBI made it to the finals after stunning pennant champion G4S in the semifinals last week, 66-59. Before the playoffs, MBI was at the lower half of the team standings, winning only three games in the regular season and losing seven. It dropped two of its last three matches in the elimination before

See MBI on Page 26

MBI's RJ Nonato goes for a layup against Advance' Mike Olaitiman, right, and Alex Gozon during Game 1 of their title series in the Shirley's caging last Friday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Heo soldiers on despite fatigue

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Fatigue caught up with Ji Hoon Heo after competing for more

than a month in three different countries, hurting his chances to gain few more ranking points from the Junior ITF Circuit Calendar.

In an email to *Saipan Tribune*, the CNMI junior tennis player said he became sick before the 2009 Northern Territory Junior ITF International, which was played in Darwin, Australia from July 13 to 16.

"I got sick and caught a cold when I was at the plane. I had a fever and headaches," said Heo, who flew in from Fiji to Australia.

He was in Fiji for the Air Pacific South Pacific Open Junior Championships 2009 in Lautoka. He prevailed in two matches in Fiji, topping Arman Abdollahi of Australia in the second round, 6-2, 6-1, and New Zealand's Ari Davis, 6-4, 6-4. Heo then moved to the quarterfinals, but lost to tour-

See HEO on Page 26



Heo

Banzai Memorial Half Marathon set for Sept. 12



Long distance runners in the CNMI are told to mark their calendar on Sept. 12 for the fourth edition of the

Banzai Memorial Half Marathon and 10K Fun Run.

Brad Ruszala, one of the organizers of the race that started in 2006, is expecting between 65 to 100 runners for the races that will start and finish at the fabled Banzai Cliff.

Registration is at 5:30am, while the half marathon will kick off at 6am and the fun run at 7am. Entry fee is \$15.

All proceeds will be used to bring inaugural XTERRA Saipan winner Jamie Whitmore to Saipan for the 2010 edition of the Crown Jewel and the Tagaman Triathlon either as a regular participant or guest. Whitmore is recovering from cancer and missed the last two stagings of XTERRA.

When the 4th Banzai Memorial Half Marathon hits the road in two months, all eyes will be focused on defending champions Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel and Mamiko Oshima-Berger.

Kabiriel, who is also known as "Road Runner Bunny" won last year's Banzai race in one hour, 31 minutes, 50 seconds, eclipsing his 2007 record

See BANZAI on Page 26

Mamiko Oshima-Berger will go for her fourth straight win in the 2009 Banzai Memorial Half Marathon, which will kick off on Sept. 12.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Sta. Remedio lands heaviest marlin

Anthony Camacho of *Sta. Remedio* poses with the 319.5-lb pound marlin they caught last Saturday during the first day of the 25th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



A 319.5-lb. marlin was the biggest attraction in the 25th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament held

over the weekend.

The weekend's heaviest catch belonged to *Sta. Remedio*, which is captained by Antonio Camacho with Anthony Camacho, Melvin Aldan, and Damian Pua as anglers.

A big number of tourists, anglers, and spectators trooped to the weighing station at Smiling Cove Marina to

take a glimpse of the heaviest catch in Day 1 of the tournament last Saturday. Some, usually kids, even had their photos taken besides the more than four-foot long billfish.

Back-to-back champion *Cabo Express* was without a catch in Day 1 and even its 224-lb catch in Day 2 was

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